Takes 2 to Cha-cha, Drilon reminds congressmen

Story on PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Kidnaps on rise; GMA orders crackdown

By Gil C. Cabacungan and Alcuin Papa

THE SITUATION has worsened so badly that kidnappings have averaged at least one abduction per day since August, according to anticrime crusader Teresita Ang-See.

Ang-See said a total of 17 cases were recorded last month alone by her group, the Citizen's Action Against Crime (Caac).

KIDNAPS/ A18

'Report-A-Mistress' campaign launched

By Gil Cabacungan and Cynthia Balana

ANG TAONG MATINO AY GAGAWA NG MABUTI KAHIT SAAN

AS FAR as the Civil Service Commission is concerned, what should matter is a public servant's performance at work, not whether he has a lover

'REPORT/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, September 20, 2003 ★★ 72 pages / 9 sections / vol. 18 / no. 284 P15 website: www.inq7.net

German bank won't release Marcos loot

$22-M deposit held in Singapore

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER an American judge ruled against the transfer of $683 million of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth, comes another roadblock in the Philippine government's 17-year-old quest to recover the Marcos loot.

The Singapore branch of WestLB AG, a German bank that holds a portion of the disputatious funds, said it was not letting go of the money until a court in the city-state rules on how it would be disposed.

The $683 million is held in escrow by the Philippine National Bank but the money is invested in banks throughout Asia.

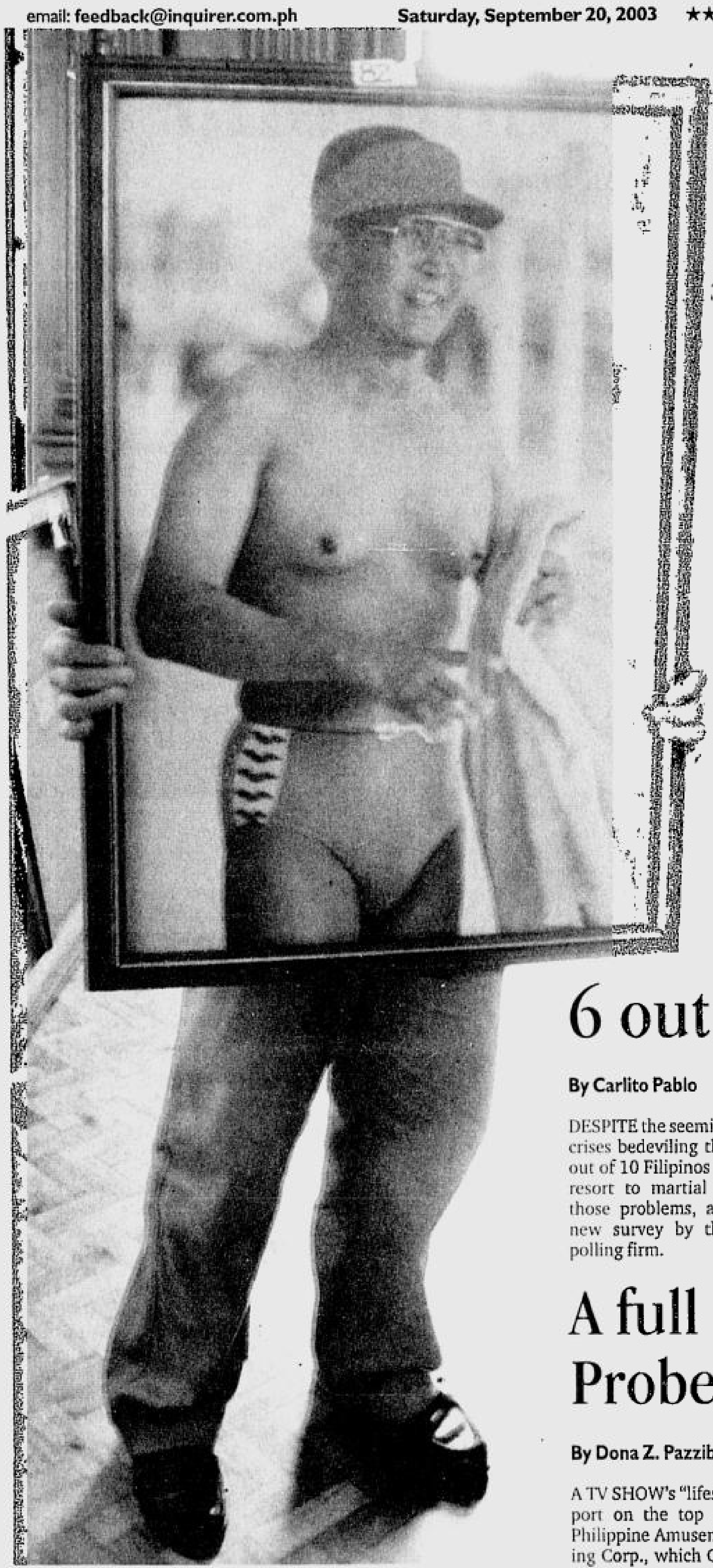
"The Singapore branch of WestLB AG has received multiple claims to certain deposits currently held at the Singapore branch in the name of the Philippine National Bank. Accordingly, the deposits will be held at the Singapore branch until a final determination by a competent court in Singapore as to the proper disposition of the deposits at the Singapore branch," said the Sept. 17 letter from WestLB AG signed by Teo Ee Ngoh, the bank's general manager and managing director, and Simon Poey, its legal counsel.

The letter was addressed to the PNB, the lawyer for a faction of the human rights victims Robert Swift, and the lawyers of other concerned parties.

The camp of former first lady Imelda Marcos provided reporters a copy of the letter yesterday.

Assistant Solicitor General Nestor Jay Ballasillo, who is handling the Marcos case before the Supreme

GERMAN/ A18



THE STRONGMAN cometh, or so it would appear from this portrait of Ferdinand Marcos that a Malacañang worker is carrying during a Palace inventory and sorting out operation of presidential artifacts in preparation for the state visit of US President Bush. EDWIN BACASMAS

6 out of 10 Filipinos reject martial law

By Carlito Pablo

DESPITE the seemingly unending crises bedeviling the country, six out of 10 Filipinos would reject a resort to martial rule to solve those problems, according to a new survey by the Pulse Asia polling firm.

Pulse Asia, which released its survey report two days before the 31st anniversary of the Sept. 21, 1972 martial law declaration by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, noted that significantly more respondents rejected martial law now than in the last survey conducted in April (53 percent).

"The many crises hounding the nation notwithstanding, 62 percent of Filipinos still reject the use of martial law to solve the country's woes," Pulse Asia said in a report on a national survey on martial law which it conducted from July 25 to Aug. 6.

This could be a reaction to the mutiny staged by rebellious soldiers in the Oakwood luxury apartments in Makati last July 27 which the government said was part of a wider coup plot, according to Pulse Asia.

It showed what the public thought of the reported plans of

6 OUT OF 10/ A18

A full house shown Probe's Pagcor report

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A TV SHOW's "lifestyle check" report on the top official of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which GMA 7 officials did not allow to air Tuesday night because of "incomplete" supporting documents, was shown to a full house yesterday at the University of the Philippines' College of Mass Communication auditorium.

The 15-minute report of "The Probe Team" took off from President Macapagal-Arroyo's order last year for a lifestyle check on public officials, then focused on Efraim Genuino, Pagcor chair and CEO currently under fire for alleged financial mismanagement.

Reporter Bernadette Sembrano cited supposed discrepancies in Genuino's declared assets, saying his February 2001 statement of assets and liabilities (SAL) showed that he had shares in two corporations.

Sembrano added, however,

A FULL HOUSE/ A6

EFRAIM GENUINO, Pagcor chair/CEO: Refused interviews

CHECHE LAZARO, Probe executive producer JOAN BONDOC

Gov't-MILF clash feared over hunt for Al-Ghozi

By Allan A. Nawal
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The hunt for the fugitive Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi in what President Macapagal-Arroyo called "no man's land" in the South could trigger serious clashes between government troops and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the MILF spokesperson warned yesterday.

Eid Kabalu, speaking for the 12,500-strong secessionist group, said the imminent clashes would "surely endanger the recently revitalized peace process." He also raised the suspicion that the military operation being conducted in Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay, which is near MILF territo-

GOV'T-MILF/ A7

Solon seeks investigation of Pagcor

By Carlito Pablo

ARE the funds of the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. being diverted to beef up campaign funds for 2004?

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo wants to know and he is calling for an investigation into the alleged mismanagement of Pagcor by its chair and CEO, Efraim Genuino.

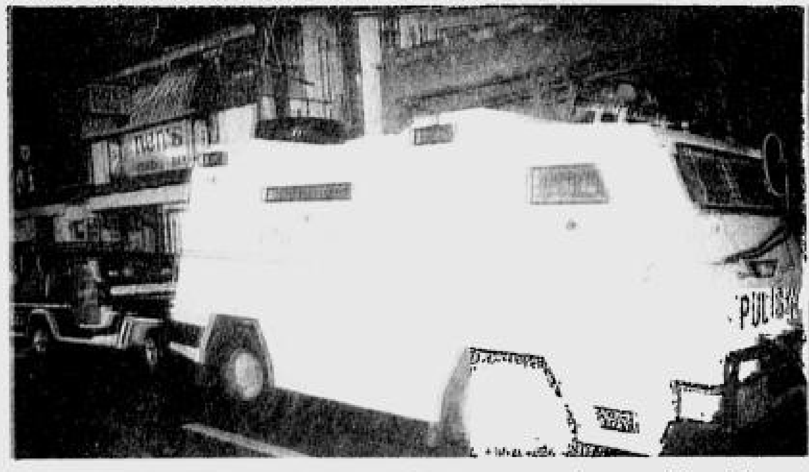
"The general elections are near, and every report of the government losing money under strange circumstances must be looked into," he said.

He did not say whether he suspected that Pagcor funds were becoming part of the supposed campaign kitty of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is being prodded by her allies to stand for election next year. But he said Genuino and other top Pagcor officers had "close ties" with the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and the administration-backed party-list group Bigkis Pinoy.

Ocampo said a probe would determine whether Pagcor, the

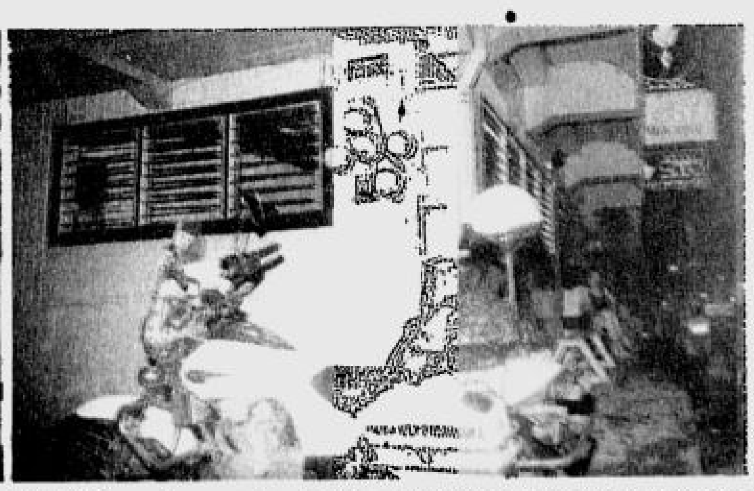
SOLON/ A6

LIFESTYLE CHECK CHECKS OUT



SPECIAL action must really be special for an armored van to drive right up, and never mind if it sticks out along an entertainment strip in Parañaque.

THE "MAYOR" is in—and how—with a full display of power and might if only in a beerhouse on Tomas Morato, Quezon City.



TRAFFIC cop is cooped up inside a girlie lounge along Airport Road in Parañaque City. Note girl in the window. PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Visayas will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/09/20/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	Roxas	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Cebu	Partly cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	Tacloban	Partly cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Cloudy with rains	Davao	Cloudy with rains

Ping jumped Erap ship with P24M, says Mike's camp

By Margaux Ortiz

"ALAM ba ni Erap ito?"

The lawyer of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo threw this question back at Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson yesterday as he revealed documents which, he said, showed that while ousted President Joseph Estrada's ship was sinking, his trusted man stashed his allegedly ill-gotten wealth away to US banks.

In a press conference at the LTA building in Makati City, lawyer Jesus Santos said that Lacson gathered much of his wealth and deposited it in US banks at the height of Estrada's impeachment trial.

Documents showed that within only six weeks and four remittances, a total of $450,000 was deposited in the account of Lacson's wife, Alice, at the Bank of America in California, Santos said.

"This was just one of the six accounts. *Alam ba ni Erap ito?* (Does Erap know this?)" he asked.

The documents, he said, were obtained from the Ombudsman and the US District Court in San Francisco.

The lawyer said that Lacson, then Philippine National Police chief, deposited the amount to several accounts in the United States during the Estrada impeachment trial.

Santos said Lacson had apparently sensed that the proceedings were leading to the President's ouster.

"Lacson knew it was time to save himself, and much of all, his ill-gotten wealth," Santos said.

Santos said the bank records subpoenaed by Commissioner Miles Erlich, assistant US attorney of the Northern District of California, "detailed Lacson's salting of more that a million dollars from the Philippines to his wife's US bank accounts in the twilight days of the Estrada administration."

Santos said that on Nov. 13, 2000, Lacson's wife was at the PCI Bank BF Aguirre branch in Parañaque to remit $100,000 to her account at the Bank of America in California. Then, two days later, Santos said, a friend sent $50,000 to the same account through the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank in Makati.

Then, on Nov. 27, again through HSBC, $150,000 was sent to the same Alice Lacson account.

Finally, a day after Christmas Mrs. Lacson sent to her own account $145,000 from the PCIB BF-Aguirre branch, which was debited in her California account on Jan. 3.

That total, Santos said, was $450,000, which in today's exchange rate is "a cool P24,750,000 evacuated from the sinking Erap ship in six weeks."

When Lacson saw that the coast was clear after Edsa 2, he withdrew $246,199 and deposited the amount at the Union Bank of the Philippines.

'TRANSITION PRESIDENT'

Drilon's reminder: Takes 2 to Cha-cha

By Christine O. Avendaño

SOME people seem to be forgetting that it takes two to "Cha-cha."

If the proposal to elect a transition president in 2004 to pave the way for a complete shift to a parliamentary form of government in 2007 has been gaining ground in the House, it's a different story in the Senate.

"It (the proposal) will be grounded in the Senate," Senate President Franklin Drilon told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

Drilon was reacting to reports that many congressmen were now supportive of the plan being pushed by Speaker Jose de Venecia and presidential advisers Jose Ma. Rufino and Norberto Gonzales to elect a "transition" president in 2004 who would step down in 2007.

The purpose of the short presidential term is to allow for the transition to a parliamentary form of government. The three-year president's task would be mainly to "prepare the bureaucracy" for the transition.

The plan would only work, however, if Congress is convened into a constituent assembly in order to make the necessary changes to the 1987 Constitution before the 2004 national elections.

The constituent assembly should be in place by October in order for a plebiscite on the Constitutional amendments to be held in February. Among the amendments would be a shift from the presidential to the parliamentary form of government.

Aside from the ruling Lakas-CMD party, the Nationalist People's Coalition of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco has reportedly thrown its support behind the De Venecia proposal.

In a phone interview, Drilon acknowledged that for the plan to push through, Congress would have to convene itself into a constituent assembly.

But he reiterated that the Senate was still debating a resolution endorsing a constitutional convention as the mode for amending the Constitution.

The resolution, he said, had been proposed by the Senate committee on constitutional amendments chaired by Sen. Edgardo Angara.

Majority of the senators prefer the Con-con mode to Consa, Drilon said.

A Con-con would be composed of members elected during the 2004 polls and they may not necessarily be politicians; while a Consa would be composed of the members of Congress who would make themselves over into a constituent assembly.

But, "convening a constituent assembly is not on the agenda of the Senate," Drilon said.

The House has already approved a resolution to amend the Constitution through a Consa.

The Senate resolution calls for the election of Con-con delegates during the May 2004 elections.

The Senate is expected to continue with its debate on the resolution when Congress resumes sessions on Oct. 6.

Public works secretary faces suspension

PUBLIC Works Secretary Florante Soriquez may be suspended by Sept. 30 for his alleged involvement in the P3-billion lahar megadike scam unless he gets a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court.

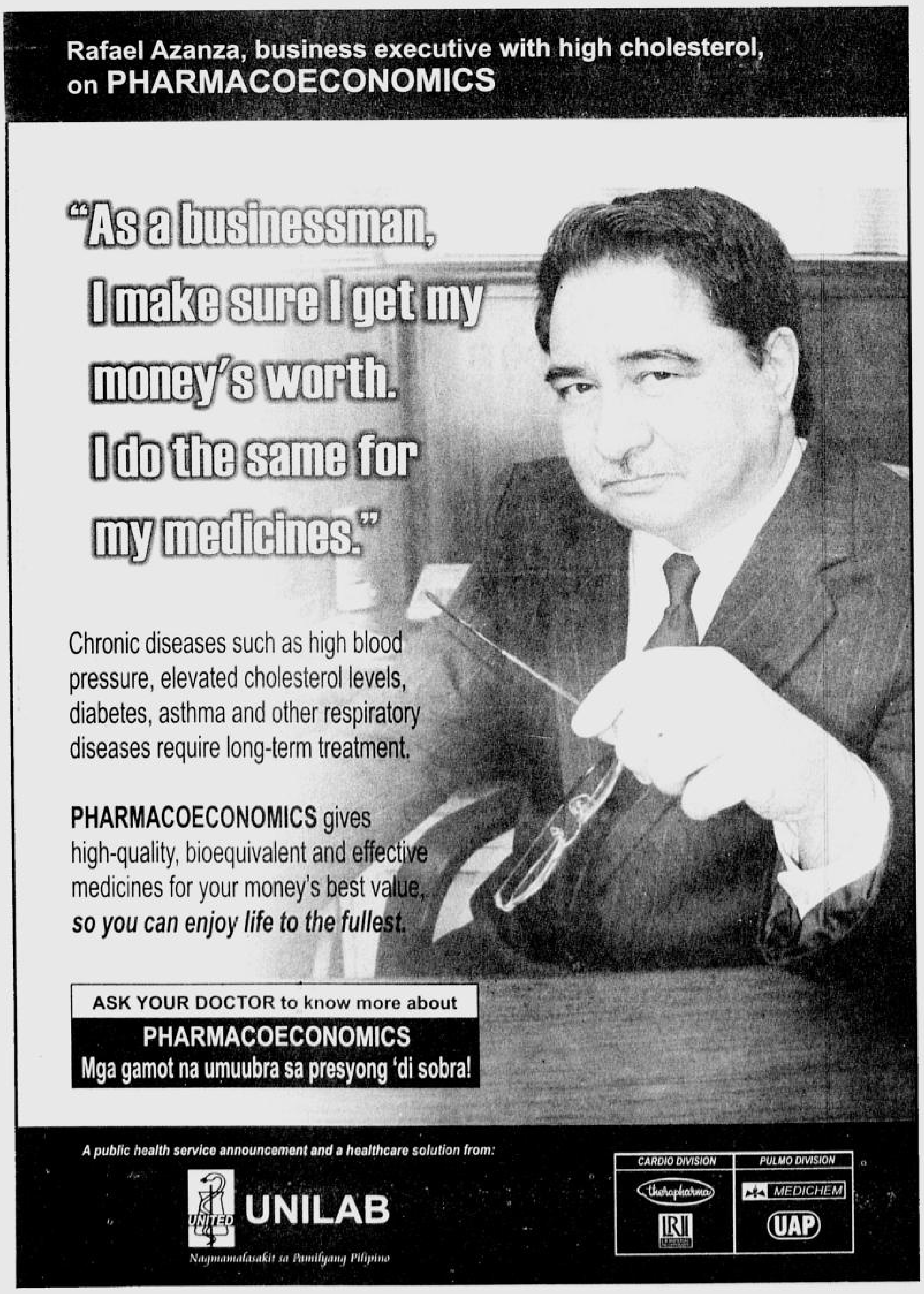
The Sandiganbayan's Fifth division advised Soriquez to secure a TRO to stop them from deciding on a motion to have the DPWH head suspended.

"We might act on it," Sandiganbayan fifth division presiding justice Minita Chico-Nazario said after government prosecutors asked the anti-graft court to suspend Soriquez.

Soriquez and nine other DPWH officials and private individuals are facing graft charges for the 1996 collapse of certain portions of the P3 billion FVR Megadike Project in Pampanga.

Soriquez et al. allegedly violated the anti-graft law for allowing the contractor, Atlantic Erectors Inc., to deviate from the original plans and specifications of the project, while paying the construction firm the full P38,289,708 for the portion of the dike which later collapsed.

During Thursday's hearing, Nazario said they don't want to be seen as going soft on Soriquez "while we are strict on other officials" who are immediately suspended for graft charges. *A. Nocum*



Rafael Azanza, business executive with high cholesterol, on PHARMACOECONOMICS

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No blow-out in gov't spending, Boncodin vows

SPENDING by the government has been within allowable limits and there will be no blow-out ahead of next year's elections, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said yesterday.

The government announced on Thursday it breached its budget deficit target in August for the first time in five months, largely because of a surge in spending to pay off overdue accounts.

The fiscal shortfall hit P18 billion in August, more than double the official forecast of P8.115 billion.

The budget deficit, a closely watched indicator of the country's fiscal health, has been an ongoing headache for the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo after three targets were breached last year.

Some analysts fear the overshoot in August could signal the start of a sharp pick-up in spending ahead of next May's elections, with the government trying to pump-prime the economy.

But Boncodin ruled that out.

"When Congress approves a budget, that's it. That's the limit. We can never go ahead of that, we can never go beyond, because that would be illegal," she said on local television.

The rise in spending in August was a deliberate move to reduce the length of outstanding unpaid accounts and to use some of the savings made in the first half of the year.

"Because of the very good performance we had from January to June, we decided it is now time for us to spend some of the savings that we have generated from the first semester," she said.

On Thursday, Finance Secretary Jose Camacho said the August spending was a response to slower economic activity, but he added that the country remained on track to stay within its full-year deficit target of P202 billion, or 4.7 percent of projected gross domestic product.

Boncodin noted that, for the first eight months, the shortfall was about P13 billion below target for the period and that spending was up just three percent year-on-year.

"Twenty nine percent of the increase in expenditure between last year and this year is due to interest payments," she said.

"All non-interest payments are five percent lower compared to last year, so I don't see where the election spending is coming from." *Reuters*

Oreta defends GMA

IN A RARE twist, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta has turned defender of President Macapagal-Arroyo against television gag shows that poke fun at her.

Oreta said yesterday the entertainment media should "exercise responsibility in lampooning President Macapagal by not going overboard to the point of showing disrespect for the office she holds."

Oreta's stand surprised reporters because she is a staunch critic of Ms Macapagal-administration. *M. Lim Ubac*

35 villages see the light

THIRTY-FIVE remote villages in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao now have access to electricity due to a partnership between government and the private sector.

This is the result of the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy, a joint undertaking among Mirant Philippines, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Energy, Winrock International and the ARMM government.

Barangays from the municipalities of Bongao and Sapa-sapa in Basilan as well as the municipalities of Isabela, Lantawan, Sumisip, Tuburan and Tipo-tipo in Basilan are now electrified via solar panels installed by Mirant. Community preparation and proper training on how residents can utilize solar energy was conducted by the USAID.

"Providing electricity to the countryside is a task that government will be hard put to accomplish on its own. It is an area that needs private sector support," said Greggy Romualdez, public affairs manager of Mirant. "We are hoping that this will help uplift the quality of life in the ARMM and the entire Mindanao as well," he added.

Old hat, GMA says of corruption report

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo cried foul over a rehashed report of an international antigraft watchdog ranking the country third most corrupt in Asia.

Ms Macapagal pointed out that the report, which came out on television news and in some newspapers on Thursday, was old hat because it was based on the 2002 report of Transparency International "published in (its) web a long time ago."

But the President saw it fit to make a long comment about the stale news, which was reported by the INQUIRER on Aug. 30. Her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, also talked lengthily about the report.

ABS-CBN made the report as headline story in its TV Patrol news program on Thursday with an interview with Civil Service Commission Chair Karina Constantino-David.

On Aug. 30, the INQUIRER came out with the report "RP slips in corruption list," citing Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index 2002.

"The story is old hat but we are not being defensive about it," she said in a statement.

The report was based on a survey among the business sector, risk analysts and academics.

"We won't argue with the perception of others but the report is somewhat unfair in that it fails to take into account the deep reform measures we have undertaken to stem endemic corruption," the President said.

She said the reforms lie mainly in procedural and policy initiatives that have plugged revenue leaks and cut down kickbacks from business deals.

"We are also backed up by a new procurement law passed by Congress. These advances in good governance have not been very obvious to the media but they nevertheless blunted the edge of corruption," she said.

She said reforms in the bureaucratic procedures and "strict enforcement of ethical standards" were making a big difference. But she admitted that "it will take sometime for perceptions to change."

"Corruption in the Philippines did not grow overnight and will not be defeated in a day," she said.

Bunye joined in the defense of the President's anticorruption program.

"Since her first day in office, good governance has been one of the priorities of the President and this includes eliminating or minimizing graft and corruption," Bunye said.

He said the new Electronic Procurement Act is one way of curbing corruption where it is believed to be endemic.

Bunye said the lifestyle checks in different government agencies are also a big boost to the anticorruption campaign.

"The problem of corruption remains a big challenge and we should all help to minimize it," Bunye said.

MS MACAPAGAL

Agri chief seeks more funds for food production…

By Norman Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINE government should provide more funds to agriculture to boost the country's food production following the collapse of the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations in Cancun, Mexico, Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. said yesterday.

"While the collapse of the WTO talks would enable the government to maintain its present protective tariff rates for agricultural commodities, the rich nations also would continue their practice of heavily subsidizing their agricultural products of meat and grains," Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo said these subsidies represent a sustained competition to local products in the domestic market, as well as in foreign export markets.

"Thus we have no choice but to intensify our government support for agriculture, such as providing more budgetary appropriations for rural development and agricultural programs," Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo said the government should now aggressively push its programs for increased production, more affordable and sufficient food supply, and more small and medium industries in the countryside to boost rural folks' incomes.

"For instance, the implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997 (Afma) and the Fisheries Code of 1998 had been hampered because of inadequate budgetary support," he added.

He said that Congress should extend the Afma which is due to expire next year and the FC which is due to expire thereafter because the programs authorized under those laws to improve farm and fisheries production have not been completed due to lack of government funds.

"Globalization is here to stay. The WTO is here to stay. While pushing for WTO reforms, we must intensify our modernization and competitiveness enhancement efforts in our agricultural sector to effectively take advantage of the opportunities offered by export markets as well as to effectively address the challenges posed by globalization," Lorenzo said.

Among those to be modernized, he said, are irrigation and water resource management, post-harvest loss reduction, rural infrastructure, rural credit, agribusiness and marketing services improvement, research and development, capability building and extension and information support.

…And gets ₱1B for jobs

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE PRESIDENT'S economic managers yesterday announced that it would pour P1 billion in credits to farmers, fishermen and entrepreneurs in the countryside within a month to create new jobs.

The move has further reinforced the government's increasing reliance on credit to boost employment levels in the country.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo estimated that the projects to be bankrolled by the P1 billion worth of loans should generate up to 200,000 jobs in the rural areas.

The new jobs account for less than a third of the 760,000 farm jobs that were lost in the first seven months this year which nudged up the unemployment rate to a "dangerous level" of 12.3 percent as of July.

Lorenzo said the loans would be used to finance projects that farmers could implement during their idle months between planting and harvesting.

The Macapagal administration has been using credit to easy financing schemes to solve the worsening unemployment in the country.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said that jobs in the industrial (295,000) and services (254,000) sectors grew in the first seven months this year largely due to P10.8 billion in credit poured by the government in these areas.

Roxas said the government would pour another P10 billion in loans in the next six months to boost employment in the country.

Earlier, presidential deputy spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said the government would step up its spending in the rural sector for the rest of the year in view of the worsening unemployment rate in the farm sector arising from the El Niño and typhoons that hit the country a few months ago.

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Today's *WHAT'S NEWS* questions:
1. The morning duo of Chico & Delamar is heard over which FM station?
a. RX 93.1
b. Jam 88.3
c. Magic 89.9
d. 99.5 RT
2. Where is the next location of "Survivor"?
a. Pearl Islands
b. Australia
c. Africa
d. Thailand
3. Beyonce Knowles is part of which singing trio?
a. The Supremes
b. Destiny's Child
c. TLC
d. S Club 7
4. Which of the following is not a music channel?
a. CBS
b. CNN
c. AXN
d. All of the above
5. This Sony Ericsson phone is the only one with a touch-screen feature, able to read Word and Excel files, and allows users to view video clips.
a. 3CPO
b. P800
c. T105
d. T316
INQUIRER what's news TXT Game
Sony Ericsson
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1975, Series of 2003.

Palace flips, then flops over Loi's coup raps

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG yesterday flipped and then flopped on the alleged involvement of certain members of the Estrada family in the failed July 27 Oakwood mutiny.

After first announcing that the Philippine National Police should apologize to Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito-Estrada and two of her children for wrongly implicating them in the Makati City mutiny, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye backtracked a few hours later and said the Estrada family was not yet off the hook.

Bunye took back the statements he had made in an earlier interview on state-run Radyo ng Bayan, after Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong denied having said that there was no case against the opposition senator and her children, Jude and Jackie Ejercito-Lopez.

"Based on their (justice department) findings, they said that the case against the former first lady was weak, and if this is so, then the case should be dismissed and those who made the investigation should apologize to the family of Sen. Loi Estrada," Bunye had said in the dzRB interview.

The PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group implicated Estrada and her children in the failed mutiny led by disgruntled junior military officers after several vehicles that had belonged to the family were reportedly used by the mutineers.

The Estradas denied any involvement in the rebellion and claimed that they had sold the vans earlier, after the 1998 elections in which Joseph Estrada was elected President.

Senator Estrada demanded an apology from Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano of the CIDG for implicating the Estrada family in the Oakwood mutiny.

In an interview over dzRH, Estrada stressed that her family was expecting a public apology from the chief of the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) for saying that the senator and her children—Jude and Jacky—might have been behind the failed power grab last month.

"We would welcome an apology from Matillano. I think he owes us one. This is a vindication on our part," said Estrada.

But she was quick to point out that no amount of formal apology could restore the tarnished reputation of the Estradas.

Her spokesperson, Jesus Crispin Remulla, told reporters that he never had any doubt as to her innocence, and that the CIDG's accusation was just a political persecution.

Bunye said he corrected his first statement after Datumanong told him in the early afternoon that he (Datumanong) had been misquoted in news reports as having said that there was not enough evidence to prosecute the Estradas for involvement in the mutiny.

Is coup threat gone? GMA, Golez give different answers

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and her top security adviser Roilo Golez apparently don't see eye-to-eye as to the real score on the destabilization plots against her government.

In two separate statements yesterday, Ms Macapagal and Golez issued two contrasting assessments on the latest security threats.

While Ms Macapagal yesterday reiterated that she no longer faces a coup attempt, Golez said otherwise and even confirmed that there remain destabilization efforts against the Macapagal administration.

But she conceded that coup rumors continue. "We will have to deal with an intermittent spate of rumors and speculations, but the truth is that we have already consolidated the Armed Forces from top to bottom—from the most junior officers to the retired generals," the President said in a statement.

On guard

She said active and retired generals have given their unequivocal support to the chain of command.

Golez said that despite the destabilization efforts against the administration, the government remains in control of the situation.

In a text message to the INQUIRER, Golez said government forces remain on guard against any attempt that would compromise national security and the country's duly constituted authorities.

"Destabilization efforts are very manageable and bound to fail," Golez said after he was asked to comment on the status of such destabilization efforts against the administration.

"But even if such are generally feeble, we do not take anything for granted," the security adviser added.

The latest coup rumor was made public by House Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez who revealed that a coup is being planned to coincide with the state visit of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18.

Loyal generals

Retired generals, close to former President Fidel V. Ramos, have been linked to the coup plots.

But on Thursday, some 200 retired generals and officers, belonging to the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (Agfo) and the Last Watering Hole, met with the President in Malacañang and assured her of their unconditional support and loyalty.

The meeting took place amid talks of continued recruitment of active generals and officers for a new coup attempt against Ms Macapagal.

"The retired generals, who are the soul and inspiration of the active officer corps, gave a very strong eloquent statement in Malacañang. The officer corps must defend the Constitution, respect the chain of command and be loyal to the Commander in Chief," Golez said.

Despite the Thursday meeting, the coup rumors linking retired generals to the coup plots have persisted.

But Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya dismissed the persistent coup rumors as baseless. "These are mere disinformation," Abaya told reporters.

AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia said that there are no more threat from inside the military. "We are way past that. The Armed Forces is very much consolidated at this point. Time for us not to get excited by these rumors anymore," Garcia told the INQUIRER.

"These are unnecessary distractions," Garcia added.

"The whispers of a coup are residual put-me-downs and will die down in time as reforms and justice take root," the President said.

Ms Macapagal instructed the AFP leadership to "drive down the message of reforms" to the ranks "so that each and every soldier will steel his or her faith in the future of the organization."

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 20, 2003
24th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	1 Tim 6:13-16
Gospel:	Lk 8:4-15

As a great crowd gathered and people came to him from every town, Jesus began teaching them through stories, or parables, "The sower went out to sow the seed. And as he sowed, some of the grain fell along the way, was trodden on and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and no sooner had it come up than it withered, because it had no water. Some fell among thorns; the thorns grew up with the seed and choked it. But some fell on good soil and grew, producing fruit—a hundred times as much." And Jesus cried out, "Listen then, if you have ears to hear!"

The disciples asked him, "What does this story mean?" And Jesus answered, "You have been granted to know the mystery of the kingdom of God. But to others it is given in the form of stories, or parables, so that seeing they may not perceive and hearing they may not understand."

Now, this is the point of the parable:

The seed is the word of God. Those along the wayside are people who hear it, but immediately the devil comes and takes the word from their minds, for he doesn't want them to believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are people who receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe for a while and give way in time of trial. Among the thorns are people who hear the word but as they go their way, are choked by worries, riches and the pleasures of life; they bring no fruit to maturity. The good soil, instead, are people who receive the word and keep it in a gentle and generous mind, and persevering patiently, they bear fruit.

Commentary

"The sower went out to sow the seed ..." When I was a young boy I used to go to the rice fields to watch my father prepare the land for the sowing. First he would repair the little dams to contain the water. Then he would cut the tall grasses. Only after that will the plowing of the field start. The immediate preparation for the sowing follows and finally the sowing itself is done. The success or failure of the crops depends on the preparation of the land and the quality of the land. Our spiritual sower is God himself, the best sower. He brings with Him the best of seeds, the seeds of the Kingdom. He sends his rain and his sun to nourish the seeds. What is left is for the land to do its part. We are the land, how receptive are we to the seeds planted by God? How fertile are we to allow the seeds to germinate and grow within our hearts? Do we bear fruits of thirty, sixty or a hundredfold?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LEGAL ETHICS—Due diligence in performance of duties—Rule 18.03 of the Code of Professional Responsibility explicitly provides that negligence of lawyers in connection with legal matters entrusted to them for handling shall render them liable. It is a basic postulate in legal ethics that when a lawyer takes a client's cause, he covenants that he will exercise due diligence in protecting his rights. The failure to exercise that degree of vigilance and attention expected of a good father of a family makes such lawyer unworthy of the trust reposed upon him by his client and makes him answerable to him, to the courts and to society. The acts of respondent in this case violate the most elementary principles of professional ethics. By neglecting to file the "memorandum/brief," respondent set off a chain of events which eventually ended in the demolition of a "34-meter structure which complainant and four other families call home." His explanation that his "attention was focused on matters pertaining on (sic) the submission of pleadings thereafter needed to be filed in reply to plaintiff's manifestation and motion" is too ludicrous to be believed. His stance, to quote the trial court, was but "a feeble attempt to extricate himself from his blunder which is not excusable." Respondent's failure to exercise due diligence in attending to the interest of complainant caused the latter material prejudice. As a lawyer, respondent was wanting in the exercise of reasonable care demanded of every member of the Bar; his measure of diligence is several notches below the standard required of his office. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, Second Division, Santos v. Lazaro, A.C. No. 5085, February 6, 2003]

BY R. B. VERA

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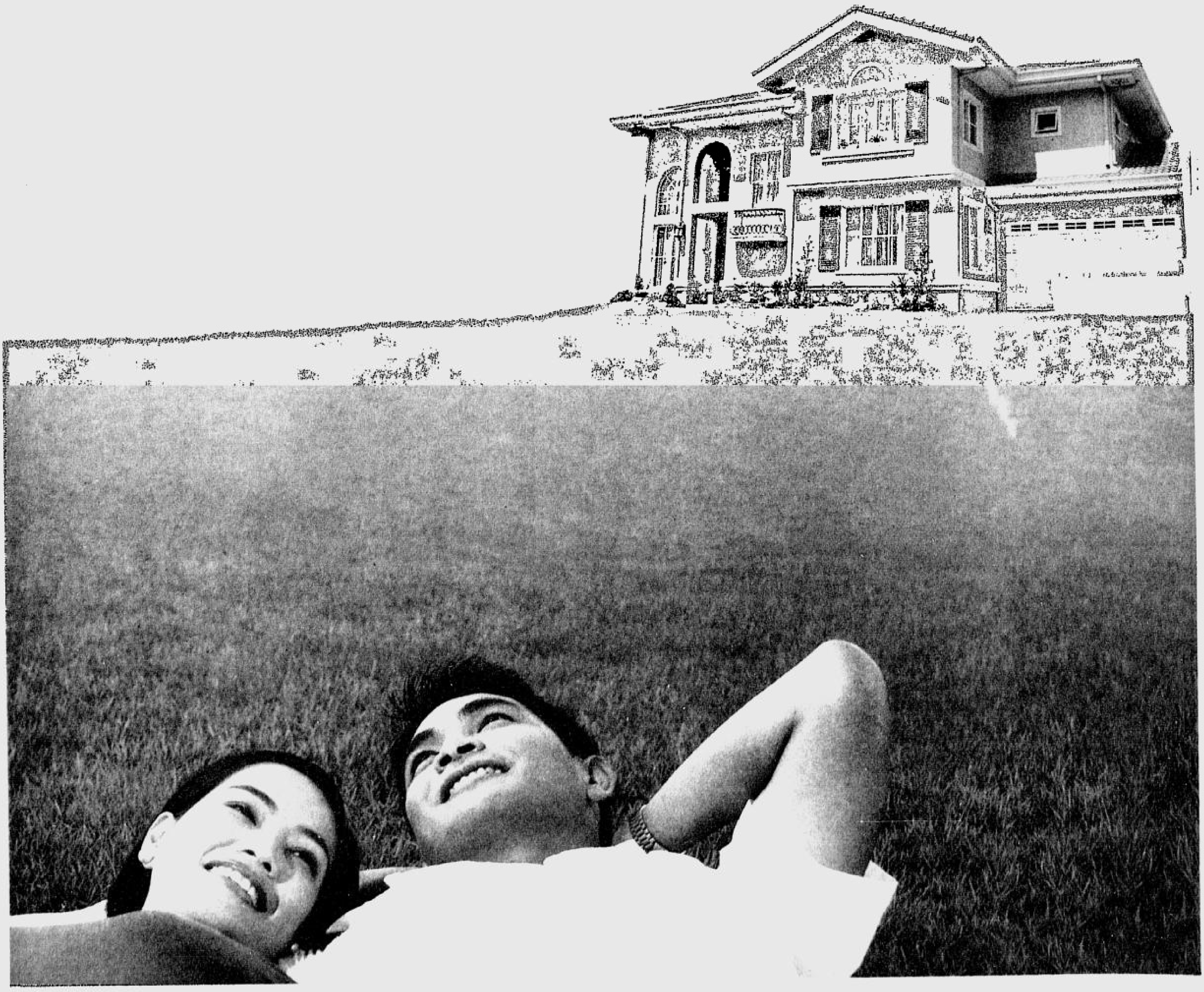


DANGAL NG BAYAN

EDWIN BACASMAS

President Macapagal-Arroyo poses for posterity with the Dangal ng Bayan awardees after the conferment of the Lingkod ng Bayan and Dangal ng Bayan awards in ceremonies held at the Ceremonial Hall of Malacañang. The awardees are, standing from left, Paul Evangelista, Federico Ocampo, Leoncio Deriada, Wilberto Rico Neil Kwan Tiu, Flordeliza Mayari, Ester Ogena, Cleofas Cervancia and Helen Bagasao. The President is flanked by Civil Service Commission Chair Karina Constantino David and Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo.

Solon seeks investigation of Pagcor

From page A1

government's major source for Malacañang's social and charity services, had "turned into a cash cow to shore up election funds for scheming politicians by their accomplices in government agencies."

Insiders at the country's most profitable corporation have accused Genuino of spending profligately, going on a hiring binge of officers and consultants, and forking out mindless donations. Genuino has denied this, and the President's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Pagcor's financial situation was open for the public to examine.

Ms Macapagal herself ordered Pagcor's board of directors to get to the bottom of the allegations of financial mismanagement.

"The board must see through the slew of apparent internal bickering that is causing adverse media reports, determine the truth, and undertake reforms if necessary," she said in a statement issued yesterday.

She also said she expected Pagcor "to take the lead in transparency along the standards of good corporate governance."

Bunye discounted the possibility of a management shake-up at Pagcor, saying the President had merely ordered reforms in the management style, rather than a change, in its leadership.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said his office would also look into the alleged irregularities made at Pagcor since January 2001.

"We take exposés in newspapers as leads in our investigation, but we can't investigate everything because of our limited resources," Marcelo said. "But the Pagcor case will be a priority."

Power play

Ocampo said Pagcor's case might not be the only example of fund mismanagement in revenue-generating government agencies.

He said "high-level government officials connected with huge political machinery" could also be siphoning other government funds for election purposes.

"If politicians can think of creative ways like operating illegal gambling and robbing banks, then dipping their sticky fingers in government coffers is not a remote possibility," he added.

Victim of power struggle

But Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) took up the cudgels for Genuino, saying he was the victim of a power struggle.

"There is an ongoing power play within Pagcor. Some officials are quietly working to discredit Genuino," the lawmaker said.

Nograles, vice chair of the House committee on games and amusement, said Genuino might have earned the ire of some Pagcor officials because he had been pursuing a "waste-cutting policy involving a wide-ranging cut in the number of consultants and non-functional managers."

"Some Pagcor officials are also working against Genuino because of his campaign to drive out well-entrenched syndicates operating in casinos," Nograles said.

The lawmaker expressed apprehension that the allegations of mismanagement would affect the Philippine tourism industry.

"The attack on Genuino will ricochet on the country's tourism sector because much of the casino habitués are foreign tourists, particularly Taiwanese and Koreans," Nograles said. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

A full house shown Probe's Pagcor report

From page A1

that Genuino and his wife owned shares in 14 corporations, as indicated in Securities and Exchange Commission records.

But she did not name these corporations, and said Genuino's December 2001 and December 2002 SALs mentioned just five and six corporations, respectively.

Sembrano also noted that Genuino's declared net worth went down from P59 million in February 2001 to P36 million in December 2002.

Then she reported that Genuino and Pagcor directors enjoyed a car plan worth P2.5 million and P2 million, respectively.

Pagcor reportedly shoulders 60 percent of the cost of a vehicle, with the balance payable in three years.

Sembrano reported that Genuino bought a vehicle worth P2.65 million. She did not say what kind.

Genuino's monthly salary, including allowances, amounts to P70,000, she said.

The Probe Team also showed footage of Genuino's two houses in Makati, including the high fences, the *barong*-clad security men, and the cars leaving the houses.

Sembrano said Genuino had refused to give his side.

Interviews with Teresita Baltazar of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and a lawyer were part of the 15-minute report.

The two pointed out that public officials were liable for failure to fully disclose their assets. But they did not comment on The Probe Team's documents on Genuino.

Hurt

In an interview yesterday, GMA 7 vice president for news and public affairs Marissa Flores denied that the network had been pressured by Genuino or by Malacañang not to air the episode.

"We've stood our ground on other controversial stories. It hurts us when we're accused of censorship," Flores said.

Nearly 200 students and a number of professors packed the auditorium for the showing arranged by UP journalism student groups.

The entire staff of The Probe Team, including executive producer Cheche Lazaro, was present.

During the open forum that followed the showing, Prof. Marichu Lambino, whose idea it was to invite The Probe Team staff, said she found nothing libelous in the report.

Prof. Lilia Briones, chief of the Bureau of Treasury during President Joseph Estrada's term, asked that the report be also shown at the UP College of Public Administration.

Lazaro said she still wanted to air their report next week, and insisted that their documentation was complete.

"GMA 7 has been good to us and supported us all the way. We will have to resolve this conflict as soon as possible," she said.

Not about libel

Assistant Prof. Danilo Arao said in an interview that "in general, the story can stand."

GMA 7's Flores acknowledged that network officials did not see eye to eye with The Probe Team staff on whether the story could stand.

"Our concern is not about libel but [whether] the documents are complete," she said.

Flores said the decision to pull out the episode was made minutes before air time Tuesday night because they asked The Probe Team staff to first complete documentation.

"The delay from the exchange, and waiting for the [comment of the] lawyers and the fact that we wanted it to air," she said, adding:

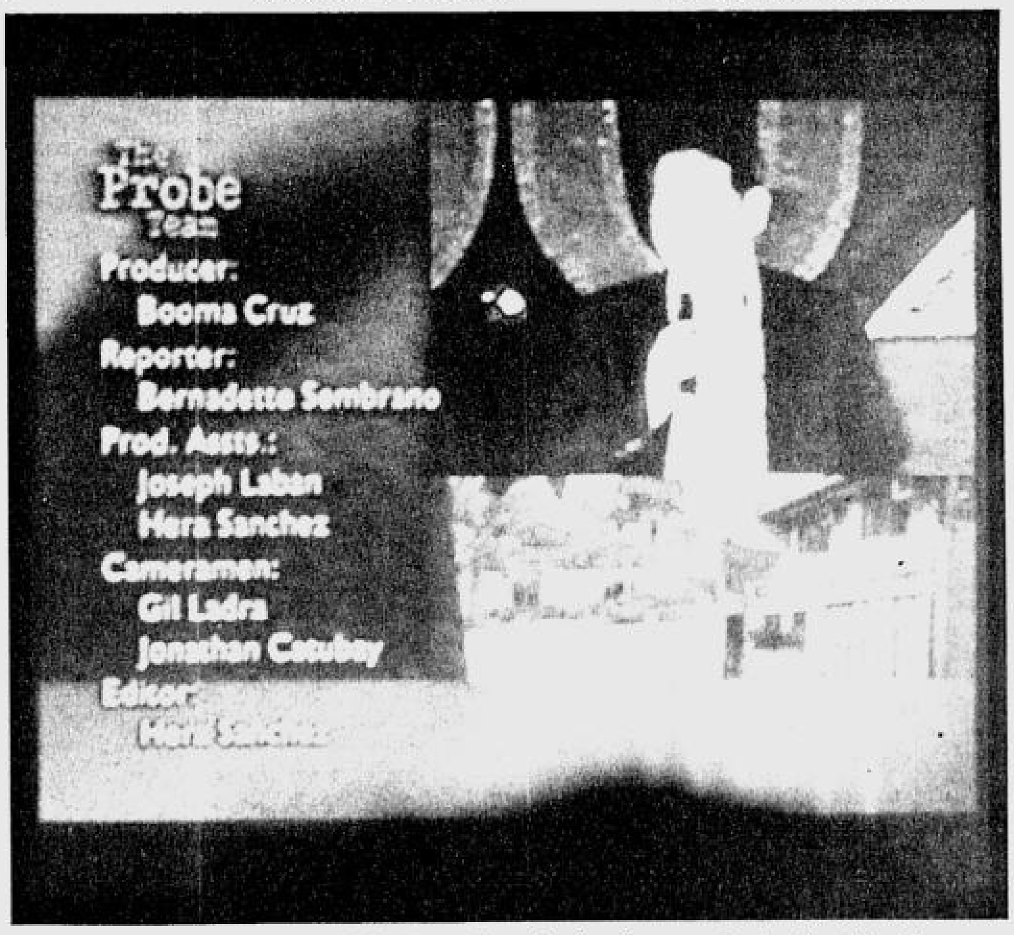
"We're responsible for everything that's aired. We have standards that are not the same, unfortunately."

Flores said Pagcor's ads in GMA 7 only accounted for "one-tenth of 1 percent" of total sales.

She said the network would not risk its reputation for such an "inconsequential" ad load.

THE PROBE TEAM of Cheche Lazaro, Bernadette Sembrano and Booma Cruz answers questions about the "censored" episode on the lifestyle check on Pagcor Chair Ephraim Genuino in a forum at the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communications.

JOAN BONDOC



CREDITS are the only portion of the show allowed to be photographed or "grabbed."

JOAN BONDOC

'Report-A-Mistress' campaign launched

From page A1

or mistress or frequents nightclubs when he is off-duty.

"It's OK to be immoral, because this is a private matter and not a concern of the CSC, as long as you are performing and not hurting the government," CSC Chair Karina Constantino David said yesterday.

But a party-list group believes otherwise and has announced that it will set up a "Report-A-Mistress" campaign in support of Malacañang's morality check on public officials.

The Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) will put up hotlines which the public can call to report extramarital affairs and other "immoral acts" of government officials, including soldiers and policemen, that may result in corruption, Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin said.

The project will be undertaken in coordination with the National Bureau of Investigation, Office of the Ombudsman, Department of Justice and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

CSC's David, however, said the lifestyle and morality checks have "demoralized" the bureaucracy.

"While the problem is serious, I don't think that all of the 1.4 million government workers are corrupt. The problem is that those who are upright decide to remain silent," David said during an interview in Malacañang.

Performance check

"The bottom line in this issue is performance," she said. "There might be people who could be considered immoral in their private lives but are performing well and have no case of corruption, (they) should stay on in government."

"It will be a diversion from the issue of governance if we conduct a morality check on more than one million government employees."

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. shared David's position.

Andaya, a member of the administration Lakas-CMD party, said what the government needed was a performance check on its officials, not the organized spying on them after office hours.

"An official can be a saint after office hours but if he is a devil in the office what good will that do to the public?" he said.

"Would we rather have an official who is a tyrant among his peers and a slowpoke in the office but attends Church novenas nightly than one who is good and effective but likes to go ballroom dancing with his wife once in a while?" he asked.

More funds

The Office of the Ombudsman, on the other hand, is asking Malacañang for more funds and staff to carry out the President's expanded war on corruption.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said his office has only 17 field investigators and all of them are tied up with the 35 lifestyle check cases involving officials of the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Marcelo said his office has requested an initial P35 million in additional funding to create 50 positions for field investigators.

Gov't-MILF clash feared over hunt for Al-Ghozi

From page A1

ries, was, "in the real sense, against us" and not for the recapture of the Indonesian bomber.

"It is not remote that the operation would trigger encounters between our forces and the military, which would eventually turn into full-blown violence," Kabalu said.

In Manila, the President's announcement to reporters Wednesday night that she would fly Monday to the towns of Jolo in Sulu and Tungawan to check on the progress of the hunt for Al-Ghozi has raised the hackles of opposition senators.

Ridiculous

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday issued a reminder that the President was an economist and that she should focus on managing the country's economic problems and addressing the implications to the Philippine economy of the failed globalization talks in Cancun.

"By this simple act of the President having to lead this manhunt, she is projecting to the public that her law enforcement chiefs are incompetent," Biazon said in a statement.

He said the recapture of Al-Ghozi should serve to protect Filipinos against terrorism and not as the administration's "tribute for the arrival" of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18.

Sen. Serge Osmeña said he viewed Ms Macapagal's planned visit as "ridiculous, pure gimmickry and wasteful."

"The soldiers will be more preoccupied with securing her than looking for bandits," Osmeña said in a text message to the INQUIRER. "Doesn't she have more important things to do than play policewoman?"

Fishing expedition

But Ms Macapagal said in a statement that in her short visit to the South, she would check not only on the progress of the hunt but also on "the entire run of peace and development activities that have a bearing on our fight against terrorism."

"Al-Ghozi's capture is a key event but it is not the whole pie of security. Many other pieces have to be put in place," she said, stressing that the government was still working to reopen peace talks with the MILF.

The MILF's Kabalu said it appeared that the government was on a fishing expedition because it had been reporting Al-Ghozi's presence virtually everywhere in Mindanao.

"They said he was in Lanao del Norte, then in Maguindanao, and now in Zamboanga Sibugay," Kabalu said. "All the areas mentioned by the military as Al-Ghozi's hiding place are close to, if not within, MILF territories."

Coordination

Kabalu said that if indeed the aim of the military operation was Al-Ghozi's recapture, the government could have easily coordinated with the MILF to avert any clash between the two camps.

He cited the joint communiqué signed by government and rebel negotiators on May 6 last year in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

The document states that police and military action against criminals near MILF territories should be a joint effort between the government and the rebel group, and that the government should coordinate with the MILF regarding military action taken near its territories.

Kabalu said that as of yesterday, the government had yet to formally inform the MILF of the military operation that started last week.

"We don't want the tension brought about by the deployment of government troops near our camps to go out of control. That will eventually drag our forces into clashes with the military, which could endanger the peace talks," he said.

The government and the MILF have been preparing for the resumption of formal peace negotiations to be hosted by Kuala Lumpur next month.

But according to Kabalu, the lack of coordination could mean that the government is not sincere in forging a peace agreement with the MILF.

Relentless hunt

The President said her administration was "not pegging a date" for the recapture of Al-Ghozi, who bolted his maximum-security cell in Camp Crame last July.

"But the hunt will be focused, intense and relentless. The dragnet is closing in on him and we are severely limiting his chances of getting through it," she said.

Weeks ago, minor clashes between soldiers and MILF rebels ensued when the military tried to locate Al-Ghozi in Sultan Naga Dimaporo in Lanao del Norte and in Kabuntalan, Maguindanao.

The clashes did not develop into a full-blown war because MILF commanders ordered their troops to stay out of sight of the pursuing soldiers.

Kabalu said the MILF, in an effort to preserve the peace process, would coordinate with the government's ceasefire committee.

He said they would bring the matter to the attention of Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff and spokesperson. *With reports from Christine O. Avendano and Gil Cabacungan Jr. in Manila*

AL-GHOZI: The hunt will be focused, intense and relentless. AFP PHOTO

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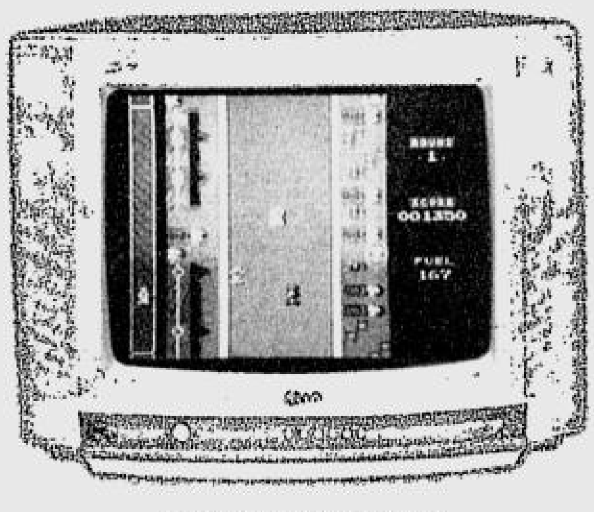

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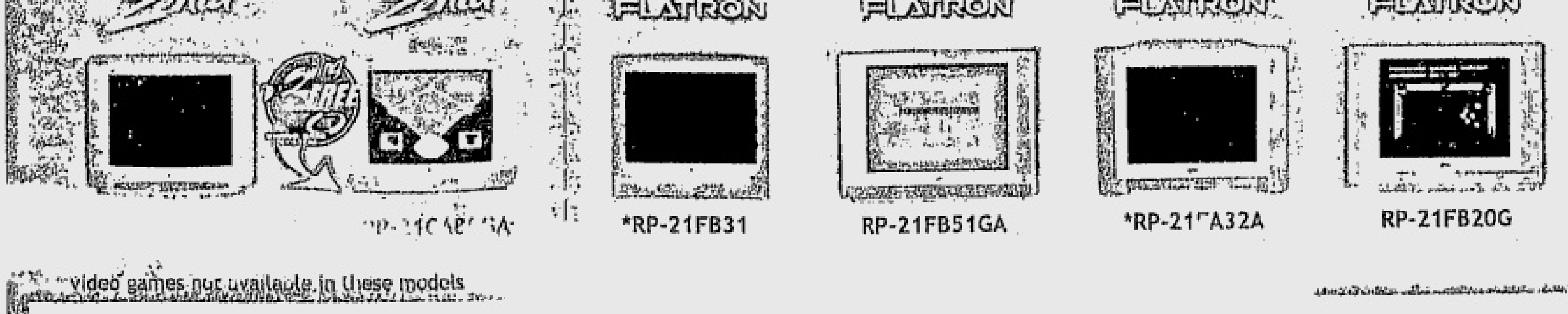

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

3 US soldiers killed in Iraq ambush

BAGHDAD—Three US soldiers were killed on Thursday in Saddam Hussein's heartland west of Baghdad, hours after President George W. Bush said he did not expect a quick UN resolution on US pleas for foreign help in Iraq.

A US military spokesperson said three soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division were killed and two wounded in small arms fire eight km south of the ousted Iraqi leader's hometown of Tikrit at a suspected weapons site.

Two other US soldiers were wounded earlier in the day in an attack on their convoy in the same general area, a hot bed of anti-Americanism west of Baghdad.

The deaths brought to 76 the number of US soldiers killed in action in Iraq—seven in the past week—since Bush declared major action over on May 1.

The latest casualties add impetus to American efforts to gain a new UN resolution to back the US-led occupation force in Iraq with more foreign troops and cash.

But Bush told reporters at his Camp David retreat outside Washington that he did not expect Security Council agreement on such a resolution before he attends the UN General Assembly in New York next week.

"No, I don't think so," he said when asked on prospects for a resolution on Iraq before the meeting.

Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, told reporters however that Washington saw the meeting as a chance to bridge differences, after the bitter debate before the US-led invasion in March.

At the United Nations, diplomats said Secretary-General Kofi Annan was demanding that the world body should have a clear and independent mandate in Iraq before large numbers of political staff return to the country.

Washington has been resisting giving up its leading role in Iraq.

Two of the strongest opponents of the war, France and Germany, expressed fears of a worsening security situation in Iraq, and called for a handover of political power to Iraqis.

At a meeting in Berlin, French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said they could help train Iraqi soldiers and police, but France also insisted Washington hand power to an Iraqi government in "months, not years."

On the training offer, Chirac said: "If the chancellor confirms this position, France will take the same position."

In the restive city of Fallujah west of Baghdad, thousands of angry people marched for the funeral of a 17-year-old boy who locals said was killed by accident by US soldiers.

Mourners said Sufyaan Daoud al-Kubaisi was killed and four Iraqis—including two women—were wounded when American soldiers shot at passers-by late on Wednesday. They said the soldiers fired after hearing celebratory shots from a nearby wedding, mistakenly thinking they were under attack. *Reuters*

IRAQI women wait in line to receive their war pension from the coalition authority in Diwaniya, about 180 km south of Baghdad Sept. 18. Spanish troops are in charge of security in Diwaniya, along with a Central American force that includes troops from the Dominican Republic. AFP

Arab nations seek UN General Assembly help to protect Arafat

UNITED NATIONS—Foiled in the Security Council by a US veto, Arab nations asked the UN General Assembly on Thursday to demand that Israel back off from a threat to "remove" Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

The 191-nation General Assembly, where Washington has no veto, set an emergency session for Friday at 11 a.m. to take up the request.

A vote in the assembly is likely to show divisions in the quartet of mediators—the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations—pressing for Middle East peace via its road map to Palestinian statehood and a secure Israel.

The United States is certain to vote against any Arab-backed resolution, Russia is likely to vote in favor and the 15 European Union states are divided after failing on Thursday to agree on a common position.

Turning to the General Assembly after a US veto in the Security Council is a time-honored tactic for the Arab bloc as it traditionally enjoys strong support there.

While council resolutions on peace and security matters can be binding on world governments, assembly measures merely reflect the will of governments around the world, each of which has one vote in the body.

The assembly session was demanded by Sudanese Ambassador Elfatih Mohamed Ahmed Erwa, who chairs the Arab group of UN members, and Malaysian Ambassador Rastam Mohd Isa, chair of the 116-nation Non-Aligned Movement.

The United States infuriated the Arab world on Tuesday by killing a resolution in the 15-nation Security Council drafted by Palestinian UN envoy Nasser al-Kidwa and endorsed by Arab and nonaligned nations.

The measure demanded that "Israel, the occupying power, desist from any act of deportation and cease any threat to the safety of the elected president of the Palestinian Authority."

It also called for an end to all acts of violence and increased efforts to implement the international road map.

Eleven council members voted in favor of the draft while Britain, Germany and Bulgaria abstained. *Reuters*

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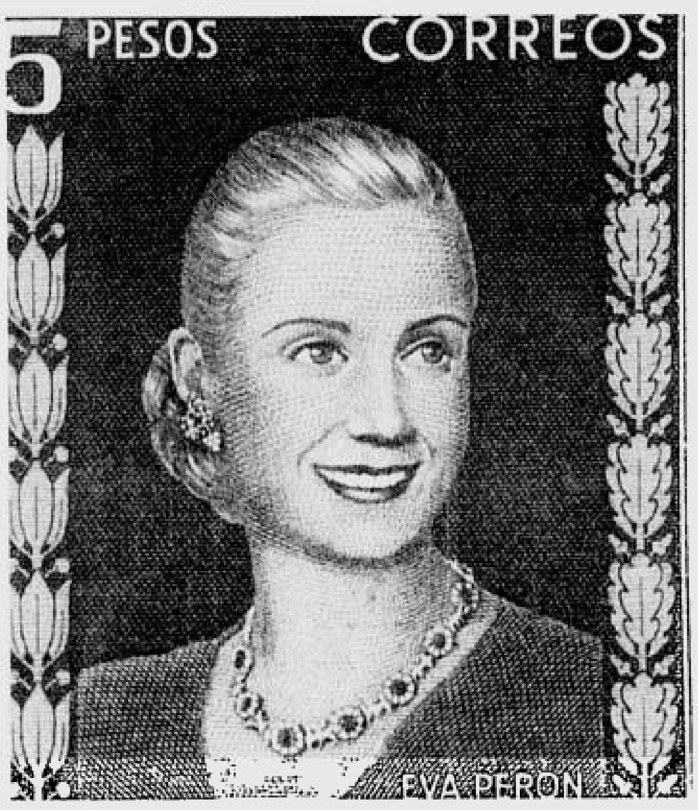

'SAINT EVA' AND HER JEWELS

A postage stamp shows Argentina's legendary Eva Peron wearing the antique ruby and diamond necklace which will be auctioned Oct: 15 at Christie's New York. The necklace with an estimated value of $150,000-$200,000 was worn in many official portraits by "Saint Eva," as many Argentinians know her. AFP

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 90, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF

SP. PROC. NO. Q-03-064

PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF
REHABILITATION PLAN AND THE
APPOINTMENT OF A REHABILITATION
RECEIVER

JAPRL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
and RAPID FORMING CORPORATION,
Petitioners.
x-----------x

STAY ORDER

Before this Court is a verified petition/application for rehabilitation filed by the above-named petitioners.

Briefly, the petitioners contend that on the basis of projected market conditions for the next fifteen (15) years they have good chance of being rehabilitated. Their rehabilitation plan calls for the rescheduling/restructuring of approximately PhP1,012,300,000.00 outstanding loans as of June 30, 2003 with a three-year grace period and [illegible] quarterly payments commencing at the end of the last quarter of the third year until final maturity with interest due up to August 31, 2003 to be paid based on rates previously agreed with individual creditors and interest from September 1, 2003 to September 30, 2005 to be paid at the rate of one percent (1.0%) over the 91-day T-Bill rate and interest from 2005 up to 2018 ranging from seven percent (7%) up to ten percent (10%) per annum, the reduction of their debt burden via dacion en pago of all their non-core assets through appropriate bidding procedures, among other things. Consequently, they pray for the immediate issuance of a Stay Order pending proceedings before this Court and the appointment of a rehabilitation receiver.

A careful examination of the petition shows that it conforms substantially with Section 2, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation (see also Supreme Court Resolution en banc in A.M. No. 00-8-10-SC). This Court therefore finds the petition to be sufficient in form and substance.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, this Court issues a Stay Order, in accordance with Section 6, Rule 4 of the aforecited Interim Rules, as follows:

1. Appointing Mr. Leandro D. Javier, a Bachelor of Science in Commerce, major in Accounting graduate, as rehabilitation receiver, who shall be considered as an officer of the court and who shall have the powers, duties and functions as provided in Section 14, Rule 4 of the aforecited Interim Rules. The rehabilitation receiver must post a bond of PhP1,200,000.00 before entering upon his powers, duties and functions and must take an oath, as provided under Section 15, Rule 4 of the aforecited Interim Rules. The petitioners are directed to serve immediately a copy of this Stay Order upon the rehabilitation receiver, Mr. Leandro D. Javier who shall manifest his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment not later than ten (10) days from receipt hereof.
2. Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise, against the petitioners, and its/their guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the petitioners including the staying of proceedings of collection cases filed against the petitioners, and the staying of the enforcement/implementation of applications for extra-judicial foreclosure sales and actual foreclosure sales, if any, against the real and personal properties of the petitioners;
3. Prohibiting the petitioners from selling, encumbering, transferring, or disposing in any manner any of its/their properties except in the ordinary course of business;
4. Prohibiting the petitioners from making any payment of its/their liabilities outstanding as at the date of the filing of the petition (August 30, 2003);
5. Prohibiting the suppliers of the petitioners from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the petitioners make payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this Stay Order;
6. Directing the petitioners to pay in full all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of this Stay Order.

The initial hearing on the petition is set on October 21, 2003 (Tuesday) at 2:00 P.M. at the session room of Branch 90 of this Court located at the Ground Floor of the Hall of Justice Building, Quezon City Hall Complex, Quezon City. All creditors and all interested parties including the Securities and Exchange Commission are directed to file with this Court and serve upon the petitioners a verified comment on or opposition to the petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing as set forth above, and they are put on notice that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings before this Court. All creditors and all interested parties are further directed to secure from this Court copies of the petition and its annexes within such time as to enable them to file their verified comment on or opposition to the petition and to prepare them for the initial hearing of the petition, and to attain this purpose, the petitioners are ordered to file with this Court initially twenty-five (25) additional copies of the petition and its annexes within ten (10) days from receipt hereof.

The petitioners are furthermore directed by this Court to publish a copy of this Order in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and one other newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines with widespread circulation in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao if it is a newspaper other than the herein named newspaper, chosen by raffle, considering the location properties in Luzon and Visayas as alleged in the petition, once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks, with the last publication effected at least three (3) weeks prior to date of initial hearing as set forth above, for wider dissemination to all interested persons, at the expense of the petitioners.

The Process Server of this Court is ordered to serve immediately copies of this Stay Order upon: 1) Mr. Peter Rafael [illegible], the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the petitioners and Mr. Jose Anillado (President of petitioners), c/o JAPRL Development Corporation, 114 Santol Street, Quezon City; 2) Atty. Jay Daniel R. Santiago, [illegible] Law [illegible], 8th Flr. [illegible] Place, 2122 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City; 3) Mr. Leandro David Javier, 249 Apitong Street, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City; 4) the Honorable Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, EDSA (Epifanio De los Santos Avenue), Mandaluyong City.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, September [illegible] 2003.

Signed: REYNALDO B. DAWAY
Presiding Judge

Advt.

Blair's Labor Party loses safe seat

LONDON—Prime Minister Tony Blair's ruling Labor Party on Friday lost what used to be one of its safest seats in parliament to the opposition Liberal Democrats.

In a poll widely seen as a test of Blair's popularity following the war in Iraq, Labor suffered its first by-election defeat in 16 years by conceding Brent East in north London to Liberal Democrat candidate Sarah Teather.

She overturned Labor's general election majority of 13,047, defeating Labor candidate Robert Evans by 1,118 votes. She attributed the victory to Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy's opposition to the Iraq war.

"Tony Blair, I hope that you are listening tonight," Teather said, after results were announced at 2:40 a.m. "The people of Brent have spoken for the people of Britain. They want you to listen. They want you to deliver.

"Tonight's result is a vindication of the courageous stance that Charles Kennedy has taken on issues such as Iraq, but also health and schools," added Teather, who at 29 became the youngest lawmaker in the House of Commons.

Labor Party chairman Ian McCartney said the defeat was "very disappointing," although Blair retained a huge majority in parliament.

"The backdrop of the controversy surrounding the Iraqi conflict, in its many forms, made this the most difficult by-election Labor has fought in the last 20 years," he said. "A disproportionate number of Labor voters staying at home was also a key feature."

Turnout was 36.4 percent, compared with 49.9 percent when Paul Daisley won the seat for Labor at the last general election in 2001. Daisley's death from cancer last June prompted the by-election, which took place Thursday. Vote counting carried on through much of the night.

Labor Party press officer Matthew Doyle said the defeat at Brent East was the party's first in a by-election since it lost the Greenwich seat in east London to the Social Democratic Party in 1987.

Blair has drawn criticism for his decision to send British troops to war in Iraq. The prime minister had argued that military action was necessary to rid Saddam Hussein of his weapons of mass destruction, but coalition forces in Iraq have so far failed to find any banned arms. *AP*

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13 killed as weakened Hurricane 'Isabel' moves inland

HURRICANE Isabel, weakened to a tropical storm, moved inland on Friday leaving in its wake 13 dead, 4.5 million homes and businesses without power from the Carolinas to New York, and the US capital shut down for a second day.

The storm killed a utility repairman in North Carolina who was trying to restore power in coastal Carteret County. Falling trees killed three people in Virginia and one in New Jersey.

Eight traffic deaths were blamed on the storm in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Isabel cut a path of destruction on Thursday through the North Carolina and Virginia shorelines with winds of up to 160 kph but weakened to a tropical storm as it sideswiped the nation's capital.

The worst damage was caused by winds and rains that downed tens of thousands of trees and pushed rivers and streams to record flood levels across a region already saturated with above-average rainfall.

There was widespread travel disruption on the East Coast.

Relieved insurers now expect the bill for damages to be less than $1 billion, only a quarter of the $4 billion feared earlier in the week when Isabel screeched across the Atlantic at a category 5 on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale.

"It was no Fran or Floyd, but for the folks who have trees in their living rooms, that's little comfort," North Carolina emergency management spokesperson Mark Van Sciver said, referring to previous devastating hurricanes in 1992 and 1999.

As the weakened storm moved northwest toward Pennsylvania, government officials and power crews urged residents across the mid-Atlantic region to stay home while they started cleaning up extensive damage and waiting for power and phone lines to be repaired.

Some areas were expected to be without power for up to a week and energy companies reported record numbers of clients losing power. Many people reported their phone lines down.

The storm's center was moving over West Virginia on Friday morning with maximum sustained winds of 80 kph. While downgraded from hurricane status on Thursday night, it still carried with it fears of heavy rains and widespread flooding.

The federal government remained closed for a second day on Friday after being ordered shut down on Thursday as the storm bore down on the nation's capital.

Most of Congress left town before Isabel arrived. The capital's Metro subway and bus system reopened on Friday.

Air travelers on Friday still faced major delays. Amtrak struggled to get trains moving but virtually all service south of Washington remained halted and delays were reported for many trains headed west and up the Eastern seaboard.

Reuters

Surgery on Suu Kyi successful, says doc

RANGOON—Burma's detained pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, underwent major surgery on Friday, her physician said.

Suu Kyi, 58, was admitted late Wednesday to the Asia Royal Cardiac and Medical Center in the capital, Rangoon, for what hospital officials said was a gynecological operation.

Earlier reports said the surgery had taken place Thursday, but she was only given medical tests.

Suu Kyi's personal physician, Dr. Tin Myo Win, said he and a team of other doctors operated on Suu Kyi for three hours Friday afternoon. She was recovering and was in stable condition.

"She has regained consciousness and her condition is 100 percent good," he said. "We have blood bottles ready but no need for a blood transfusion."

Diplomats from the United States, Britain and Italy gathered outside the hospital with presents and bouquets for Suu Kyi, but they were not allowed to see her.

"We repeatedly ask permission to see The Lady," a US Embassy spokesperson said, referring to Suu Kyi by her nickname. "We have repeatedly pressed to see her and we have a standing request. We want to see her today, we wanted to see her yesterday, the day before."

Members of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party also waited outside the hospital.

Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, was detained after a bloody clash between her supporters and a government-backed mob on May 30 while she was visiting northern Burma.

The military seized power in 1988 after crushing a pro-democracy uprising in the country. It held elections in 1990, but refused to recognize the results after Suu Kyi's party won.

Diplomatic and other sources in the military-ruled state clarified earlier reports that the country's democracy icon had been admitted to the capital's Asia Royal Hospital late Wednesday and operated on Thursday, explaining there had been a "misunderstanding" and the operation would actually take place Friday.

An Asian diplomat said he and others had been mistakenly told that Aung San Suu Kyi, who heads the National League for Democracy (NLD), had undergone a minor operation.

Kyodo News agency reported the 58-year-old Nobel peace laureate had undergone a successful uterus operation Thursday, citing hospital sources.

"They thought she had the operation, but it was a misunderstanding. I finally confirmed that she did not have any operation yesterday," the diplomat said.

A second source said he was confident the gynaecology-related operation had yet to take place. "It is rather today," the well-placed Rangoon source said. *AP/AFP*

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3 The promo will run from 08 September 2003 until 08 January 2004. Deadline of submission of entries is on 08 January 2004 (closing of business time).

4. Four (4) REVO DLX units will be raffled off in the Grand Draw.

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7. Grand Draw will be conducted at a leading noontime variety show "Eat Bulaga" on 23 January 2004 (Friday) at 12:00 noon.

8. Names of winners will be posted at all M.Lhuillier branches nationwide. Also, winners will be informed via registered mail and phone notification. Winners' names will also be published in a newspaper of general circulation within two weeks after the draw.

9. Luzon/NCR winners must personally claim their prizes at M.Lhuillier Philippines Makati head office at 108 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City; Vis/Min winners must personally claim their prizes at M. Lhuillier Bldg., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City after the presentation of the ff. The winning raffle stub, Two (2) valid IDs with picture, Registered Mail sent by M.Lhuillier Pawnshops, Inc. The prize will be released two (2) weeks after the presentation of the claiming requirements.

10. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from date of notification will be forfeited in favor of M. Lhuillier Pawnshops, Inc. with prior approval of DTI.

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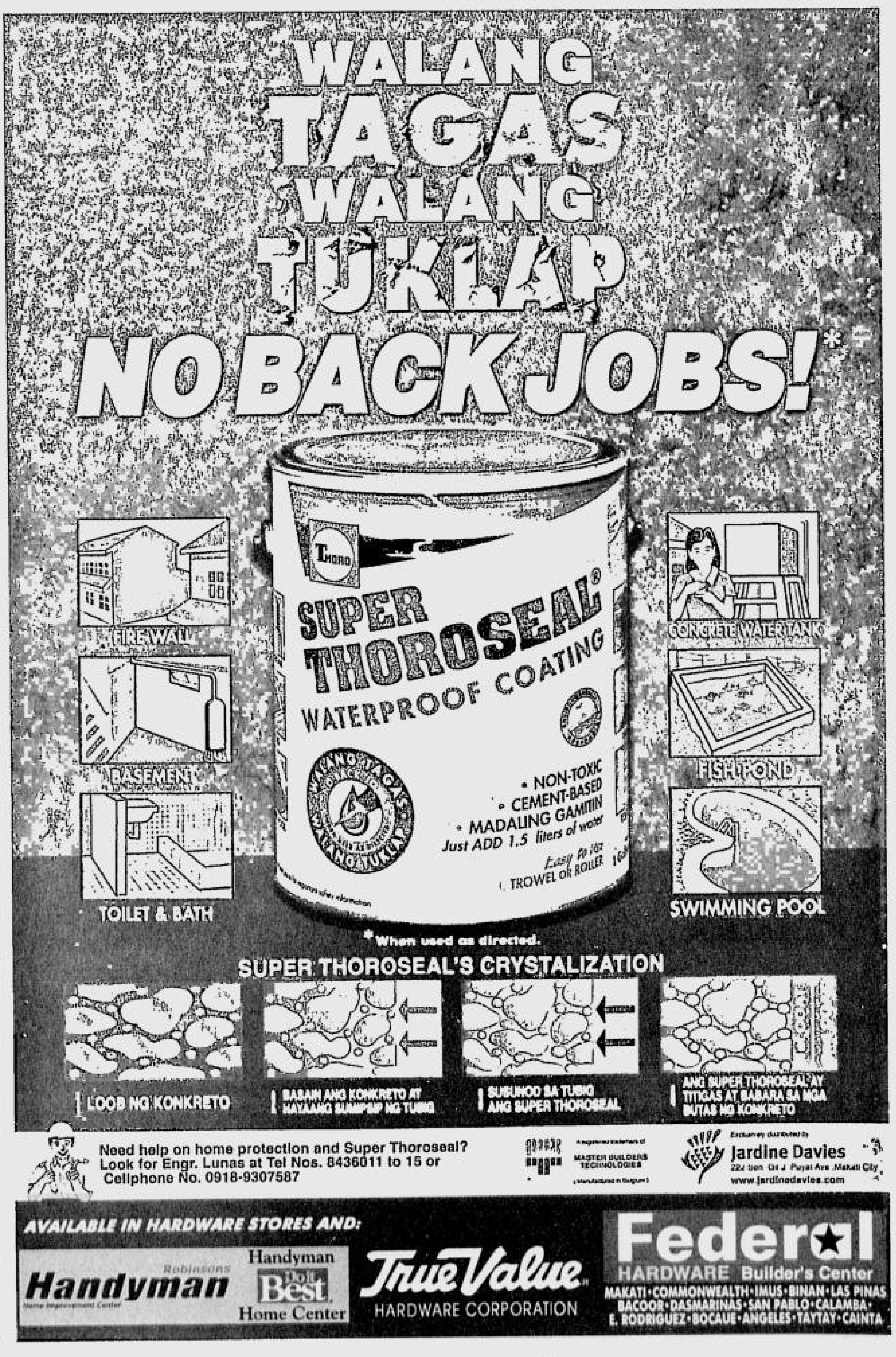
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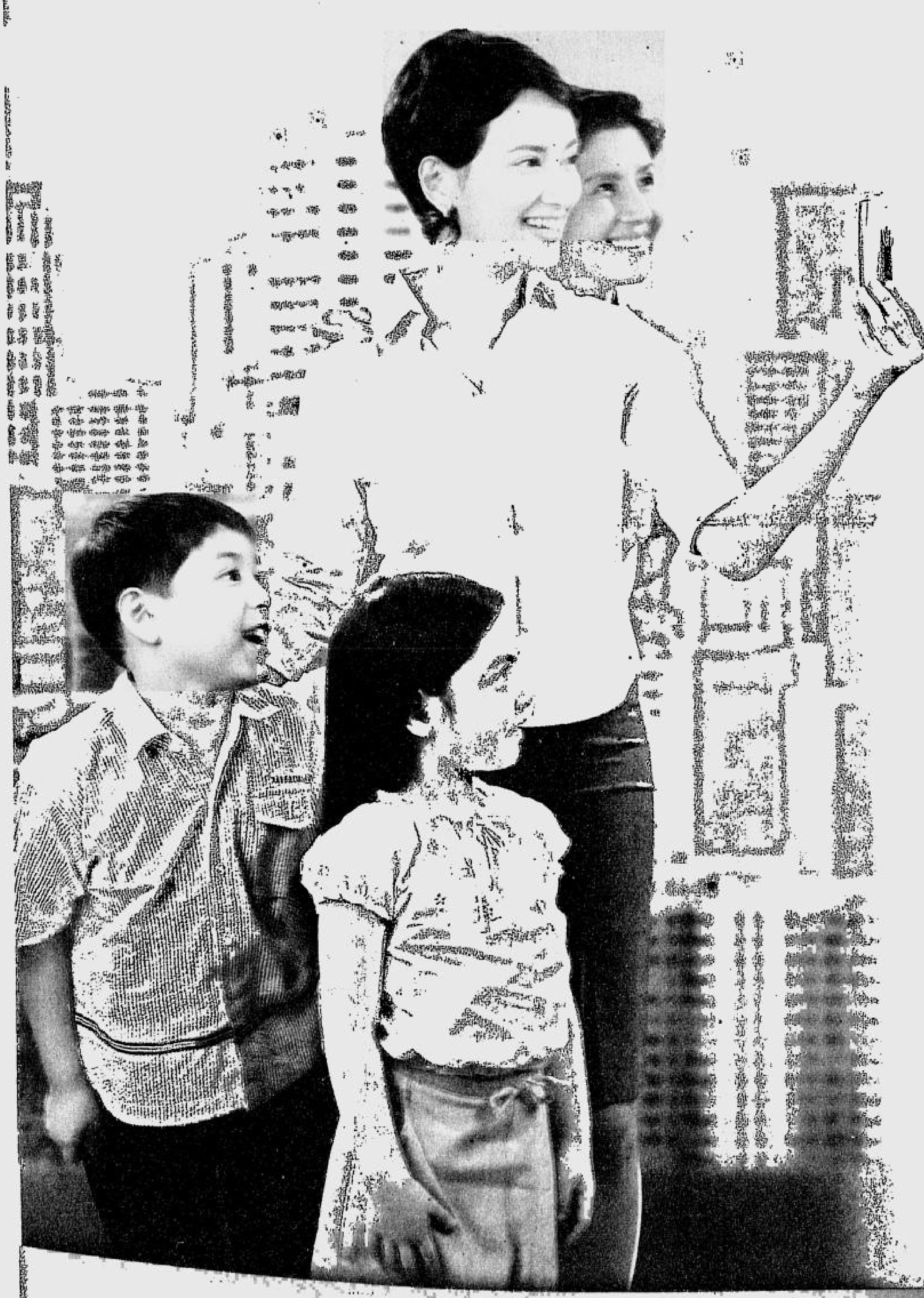

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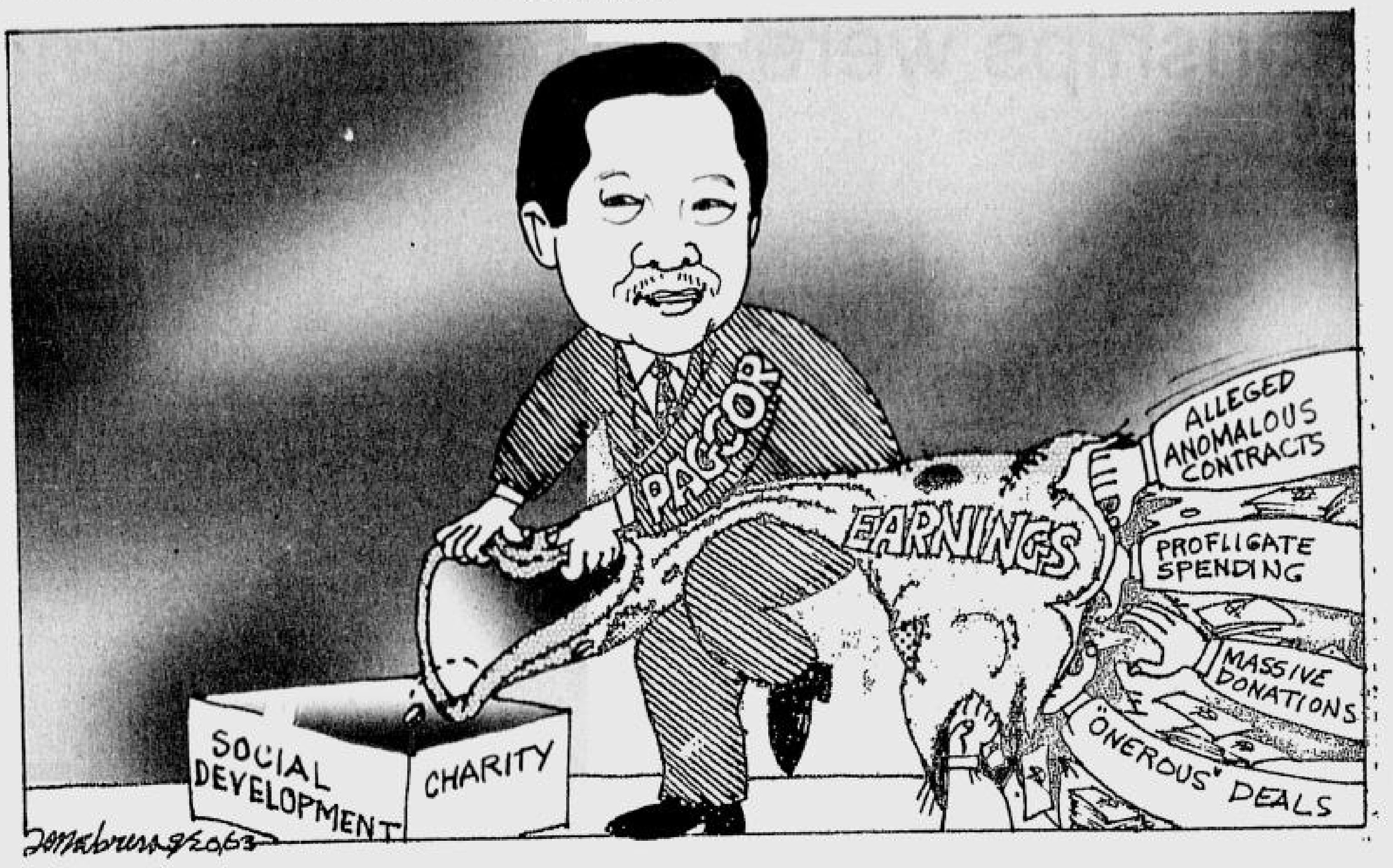


Road map's fragility

EDITORIAL

THE UNITED States' veto on Tuesday of a United Nations Security Council resolution, demanding that Israel withdraw its threat to deport Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, has underlined the fragility of the "road map" for Middle East peace, which the United States helped frame.

As a formula to defuse the escalating suicide bombing attacks blamed on Palestinian terrorist groups, the resolution came under fire from the United States and Israel which perceived it to be one-sided.

The resolution, sponsored by Pakistan, South Africa and Sudan, sought three aims: a halt to violence in the area, including all acts of terrorism, provocation, incitement and destruction; a demand for an end to Israeli threat to deport or assassinate Arafat; and an expression of support for the "road map."

Although the resolution expressed concern at "the escalation in extra-judicial executions and suicide bombing attacks, all of which have caused enormous suffering and many innocent victims," the United States said it failed to "take a clear stand against the actions" of the terrorist groups—Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Aqsa Martyrs Brigades.

Echoing the US position, the Israeli representative assailed the resolution as "a very macabre way" of criticizing "the victims of terror rather than the perpetrators of terror."

The US veto drew swift and angry reaction from the Islamic world. The Syrian representative said the veto "only complicates (the) situation in the Middle East," and the Palestinian representative said the United States was forfeiting its ability to act as mediator in the Middle East. "To continue adopting fully the Israeli position, and at the same time pretending you are helping the two parties proceed, is ludicrous," the representative said.

The UN special coordinator for the peace effort, Terje Roed Larsen, said at the Security Council meeting that Arafat "embodies Palestinian identity and aspirations—and he is now far from irrelevant." He was concerned that "without a major change in the situation on the ground, a further deterioration, resulting in major bloodshed seems inevitable." He noted that 2,800 Palestinians and 830 Israelis have been killed in fighting since September 2000.

He called attention to the fact that during the discussions of the peace proposals, "neither side has seriously and actively addressed the core concerns of the other side." "If we abandon the course of peace as drawn in the road map," he said, the process will be surrendered "to those who want to reign through force and terror, to rule not through the rule of law but of man."

Larsen's comment on the relevance of Arafat ran counter to the Israeli position that described Arafat "as a professional terrorist" and an "obstacle to peace " and his removal would swiftly end the conflict.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said: "It would be unwise to expel Arafat." His view was shared by President Jacques Chirac of France, who said, "I consider President Arafat the legitimate representative of the Palestinian Authority, and I think it would be a serious mistake to seek to eliminate him politically." Britain, the United States' staunchest ally in the war on Iraq, warned that an expulsion would undermine both the quest for peace and Israel's own interests.

Britain has urged Israel to exercise restraint on actions that would undermine the peace process as the European Union warned that exiling Arafat would be likely to escalate Israeli-Palestinian tensions.

The storm raised by the resolution is likely to complicate the allied occupation of Iraq, in which coalition occupation forces are facing increasing guerrilla attacks and the increasing hostility of the Iraqi population. The warning of its implications for the Iraqi situation came from the ambassador of Pakistan to the United Nations. The United States has pressed Pakistan to send troops to help coalition forces in Iraq.

The growing acrimony of the debate over the rising violence over the Palestinian question is not helping the United States in curbing attacks on its troops in Iraq and in paving the way for the installation of civil authority in Iraq.

That foolish law

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE OVERSEAS Absentee Voting Act was conceived by Congress, approved by the President of the Philippines, and upheld by the Supreme Court. The three major departments of the government have confabulated to adopt one of the most stupid laws ever enacted by the Republic.

Art. V, Sec. 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "suffrage may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law who are at least eighteen years of age and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election. No literacy, property or other substantive requirement shall be imposed on the exercise of suffrage."

In clear violation of the residence requirement, the said law allows Filipinos who have left the Philippines and migrated elsewhere to vote in our elections in 2004. The only condition is that they must first promise under oath to return to the Philippines and permanently reside here within three years from their registration as absentee voters.

The suffrage qualifications prescribed by the Constitution must be possessed on the date of their actual exercise of the right to vote. Not earlier, as when a 16-year-old citizen is allowed to vote on the ground that he will be 18 years old in due time. And not later either, as when the migrant Filipino returns here for permanent residence after having previously exercised the right to vote.

An immigrant is defined as one who intentionally transfers his permanent residence from one country to another. A Filipino who immigrates to the United States and becomes a permanent resident there loses his permanent residence here. A person can have only one residence; acquisition of a new residence automatically results in loss of the old residence.

When the flawed law was challenged before the Supreme Court, the majority did not see that hornbook rule. Or perhaps they refused to see it—they could not have been so dull as not to know about it. What they said was that there was a distinction between domicile and residence, suggesting that while the Filipino immigrant was domiciled in the United States, he was still resident in the Philippines.

Such rationalization is absurd and betrays the motives of the Court. It reveals all too obviously its timorous compulsion, at the cost of debasing the Constitution, to avoid displeasing the Congress that concocted the bill and the President who converted it into law.

The ideal written Constitution must be definite and accessible to the understanding of the ordinary citizens. The term "residence" is understood by the general public as a place of abode, requiring bodily presence and, the lawyers would add, the intention to return whenever one is absent.

That was how the term was understood by the Filipino people when they ratified the Constitution on Feb. 2, 1987.

The ponencia says that a person can have more than one residence, as in the city and in the province, unlike domicile, which suggests a singular and permanent location. Art. V requires residence, not domicile, and so a Filipino who has migrated to a foreign country could still be considered a resident of the Philippines.

If that is so, why require the Filipino immigrant to still take a solemn oath to return to the Philippines for permanent residence before he can be allowed to vote in our elections? That condition is based on the assumption that the Filipino immigrant is *not* a resident of the Philippines when he takes the oath and later votes in this country.

The decision also justifies the law under Sec. 2 of the same Article, requiring Congress to provide for a "system of absentee voting by qualified Filipinos abroad." The key word, Your Honors, is "qualified." It refers to our millions of overseas workers who cannot come back here to vote because of their work abroad. They have not lost their residence in the Philippines, unlike the Filipino immigrants, who have transferred their permanent residence elsewhere.

Our OCWs are still permanently resident in this country because they intend to return to their homes and families after their work abroad. They still have a stake in the Philippines and have a right to vote in our elections. They are not like the Filipino immigrants who have abandoned their native land and have transferred for good to the land of their choice.

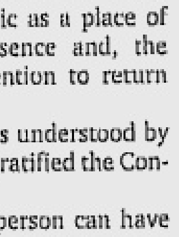
Not many of the immigrant Filipinos have shown interest in the offer of the law, apparently preferring to stay put in their new residence, or domicile, instead of forfeiting it for the privilege of voting here. At any rate, if the Supreme Court says they are still resident here although domiciled elsewhere, what's the point of that silly oath?

As for those who have taken the prescribed oath, what is to prevent them from reneging on their promise after they shall have voted in 2004 although not qualified to do so? The Court says they will be punished with the cancellation of their names in the voters' list. Big deal. Those renegades couldn't care less.

That unconstitutional law is imputable to the irresponsibility of Congress in passing it, the imprudence of the President in approving it, and the injudiciousness of the Supreme Court in legitimizing it.

Public servants who serve

GET REAL



Solita Collas-Monsod

WHEN most of the news about our so-called public servants have to do with either their wrongdoing—corruption and negligence—or their incompetence, their sins of commission or omission, it is a welcome respite to come across government employees who exhibit the exact opposite characteristics. These are the six recipients of this year's Dangal ng Bayan Awards (for outstanding ethical conduct) and the nine recipients of the Presidential or Lingkod Bayan Awards (for outstanding performance), the highest awards for public service given to outstanding government officials and employees. We should note them well, because in their commitment to serve, they have performed tasks above and beyond the call of duty. These are public servants who truly serve rather than act as our masters, and inspire us rather than destroy our confidence.

Two of the six Dangal ng Bayan awardees come from close to the lowest, if not the lowest, rung in the government job ladder. They are utility workers. Abdurasad Z. Daung of the Philippine Coconut Authority in Zamboanga City, is cited for taking on additional roles as security guard, driver, plumber, electrician and messenger without additional compensation and without complaint. Herminia A. Ibarra of the Antipolo City government, is cited for sharing her time and skills with the less privileged, initiating literacy and livelihood programs.

The third awardee is a driver (a job classification not too far above that of utility worker) for the Philippine Postal Corp. in Manila, Bernardo Dg. Navarrete. He exhibited ingenuity and resourcefulness in repairing, during his break times, a mail lifter machine that was almost ready to be consigned to the junkyard. He did not only repair it, he modified its design so that it could be used again to improve mailing service.

Then there is Susan Dignadace, who, as midwife with the municipal government of Ajuy, Iloilo, showed outstanding performance by refusing to be deterred by distance. She provides basic health services to island barangays of the municipality and conducts seminars sitio by sitio on family planning and health care. She contributed greatly to the success of the Reproductive Health and Coastal Resource Management Program in her area.

The final two of the six Dangal awardees are professionals Cheryll J. Apalisoc, a state auditor in the Commission on Audit, and Mila Segovia, a social welfare officer in the DSWD in Davao City. Cheryll demonstrated diligence and integrity and courage by exposing, in spite of threats of reprisal and bribe offers, the malpractices of electric cooperatives at the expense of low-income consumers, in the process instituting improvements in rate audit procedures. Mila, on the other hand, is recognized for the work she has done with persons with disabilities: documenting an autism program which produced a handbook now used by autism organizations nationwide, spearheading the establishment of rehabilitation centers for disabled persons, as well as one for drug dependents, and tapping volunteers for the annual summer camp for specially abled children.

The nine Lingkod Bayan or Presidential Awardees are:

Helen S. Bagasao, city social welfare and development officer of Cabanatuan, who is cited for the establishment of the Haven of Joy and Roving Center for Street Children, the Learning Center for Children with Disabilities, the Badjao Resettlement and Education Program, and the Women Productivity and Livelihood Center.

Fortunato B. Bulao, assistant provincial manager of the National Food Authority in Lingayen, Pangasinan, for inventing an insect trap which saves the agency P1.9 million a year.

Cleofas R. Cervancia, professor at UP Los Baños, cited for her priceless advancement in the studies of bees and relentless efforts in promoting beekeeping as a viable enterprise.

Leoncio P. Deriada, professor of UP Visayas, for enriching Philippine literature by encouraging Visayan-laced writings and honing the creative potentials of his students.

Paul A. Evangelista, chief of the Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital, for transforming the once destitute Culion Island into a bustling municipality and increasing the hope of leprosy patients and reducing the stigma against them.

Wilberto Rico Neil A. Kwan Tiu, city fire marshal of Panabo, Davao del Norte, for constantly risking his life to bring thousands of families to safety and improving fire prevention measures despite meager resources.

Flordeliza R. Mayari, assistant schools division superintendent of Markina City, for her work in promoting science education which included radio and TV programs, convocations and fairs, and searches for young scientists.

Federico L. Ocampo, community environment and natural resources officer in Gumaca Quezon, for his commitment and trailblazing leadership, successfully addressing in broad strokes problems in reforestation, forest protection and poverty alleviation, through his Malapapaya tree planting program.

Ester B. Ogena, director of the Science Education Institute, DOST, who conceptualized a mobile IT classroom to narrow down the digital divide in the urban and rural areas, and implemented a program to address special needs of science and math teachers.

May their tribe increase.

Irony

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

EARLIER I wrote that Washington sources have intimated that the Bush administration prefers that by the time the US President gets here, the "anointment" of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be a fait accompli, so that he wouldn't look like he's coming here to anoint her. I suspect this is why the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Party has scheduled a meeting of its 400-strong national directorate on Oct. 7. Lakas co-chair Jose de Venecia was quoted as saying that there is an "overwhelming sentiment" among party members to ask GMA to reconsider her Dec. 30, 2002 decision not to run, and that the likelihood is that she will end up as their anointed.

* * *

But even as Washington tries to distance itself from GMA's decision, pressure is coming from many directions for her to make up her mind. One of the most recent was an editorial of the influential New York Times which goaded her to declare her intentions. "If she has changed her mind—and there is no shame in doing so—she should explain why and spell out what she would do with a new mandate," the paper said. It noted that while there's little chance of a coup attempt succeeding since her opponents don't wield the "people power" that ousted the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada, still, the instability ensuing from her failure to "come clean about her intentions" is hurting the economy's chances of recovery. The editorial ended with a reminder to "Manila's political class" about its "collective responsibility to confine its squabbling to the ballot box, rather than the courts or the barracks, and to start providing Filipinos with solutions rather than plots and rumors." Considering the NYT's clout in the highest reaches of American power structure, the warning is clear as a bell: the *Kano* won't back any change other than through the ballot.

* * *

There are reports that Sen. Panfilo Lacson has filed charges in the United States against the President and her husband for violations of the Racketeer-Influenced Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statute in connection with their properties abroad. There's no confirmation about this, but if it's true, the intent is obviously to damage the image of GMA in the United States and the esteem of the US president on the eve of his visit. If it's true, that would also be the height of irony, for reading through Senate Committee Report 237, one is struck by its conclusion indicting him as the former chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF). The report lays the "miserable failure" to curb illegal drug trafficking on the doorstep of his well-funded PAOCTF, which operated outside the PNP chain of command and answered directly to President Estrada. In fact, the committees on public order and illegal drugs, blue ribbon and national defense pointedly lamented that none of the PAOCTF's officers presented evidence on the agency's behalf. But they stressed that "even more disappointing" was the decision of Lacson himself not to testify at all, "not even in defense of his command" after evidence had been introduced indicating a link between the PAOCTF and the illegal drug-trafficking and kidnap-for-ransom activities of police officers with whom the agency maintained liaison. The report says non-PAOCTF police officers "were used as shields and left to fend for themselves."

With regard to the Arroyos' alleged corruption, Lacson seems like the invincible accuser, but curiously, despite the tons of evidence against him piled up by Rosebud, Remus Garganera and other witnesses in the drug-trafficking and kidnap for ransom, he chose not to defend himself or his agency. Right to privacy, or was it because he had no defense?

* * *

Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, 2003 will be a double-barreled event for the Carmelite Monastery of St. Therese on 4 Gilmore St. in Quezon City. First, the feast of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, who has been declared Doctor of the Universal Church and Star of the Third Millennium, will be celebrated on Oct. 1. Before that, a triduum of daily Masses will be said at the monastery from Sept. 29 up to Oct. 1 at 6 p.m. Then on Sept. 30, from 9 to 11:30 am., there will be a sharing on the topic, "St. Therese and the Philippines Today," and the book "Filipino Spiritual Culture, Social Transformation & Globalization" will be launched at the St. Therese Social Hall. The book is a compilation of 13 lectures delivered by distinguished speakers during the monastery's year-long diamond anniversary from November 2000-2001, edited by Jose V. Abueva, president of the Kalayaan College. Maribel Descaller, CFC, will speak on "St. Therese of the Child Jesus and Her Ideals," while Teresita Giron, NDV, will talk about "The Relevance of St. Therese to the Philippines." Two youth leaders will make brief comments on the lecture, "Youth and Saintliness," delivered by Fr. Narciso C. Reyes, OCD, at the diamond jubilee, while Prof. Ruben F. Balane will comment on "Leadership Today."

The Sept. 30 sharing/book launch will be attended by students from 26 colleges and universities around Metro Manila. It is the Carmelites' belief that the spirituality of this youthful French saint, who was declared the youngest Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II despite her having spent only nine years in the cloisters, is akin to our own Filipino spirituality. For this reason, they hope to touch base with college students, the source of strength and light of our society in the next decade or two.

Talking with young people

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOR the last two months, I've taken part in a lecture tour of different colleges and universities in Metro Manila called "Usapang R." "R" here stands for "Rights, Respect and Responsibility," and the sessions focus on such matters as peer relationships, violence against women, reproductive health and responsible sexual behavior.

Organized by Kalakasan, or Kilusan ng Kababaihan Laban sa Karahasan, each "Usapang R" features a resource person speaking on the women's point of view and another from the men's perspective. Lately, I've been paired with either Dr. Jimmy Galvez Tan, a former health secretary and, most important, father of a precocious teenager; or Senior Insp. Ildebrandi Usana, chief of the Family, Juvenile and Gender and Development Division of the Directorate for Police Community Relations, PNP.

Kalakasan works hand in hand with student organizations as well as the Office of Student Affairs in every institution hosting an "Usapang R." Maybe that's why there's an emphasis on speaking the language of the young, and addressing the very real and concrete concerns of young people as they navigate their way toward adulthood.

Every session is preceded by a skit performed by Tanghalang Hulyo Beinte Tres, a student drama group from the Polytechnic University the Philippines (PUP). The skit tells the story of three young women—Aida, Lorna and Fe—and how they confront such situations as childhood sexual abuse, sexual harassment on campus, sexual identity, self-image and the search for one's "soulmate." Oh yes, there's also a narrator who assumes varied identities and indeed, sexualities, and brings the skit's absurd and comic elements to ever-higher levels.

The young audience laps up the material, laughing along at the young women's obsessions, good-naturedly heckling the cross-dressing narrator and self-consciously sighing at the more poignant moments. I must say the skit is the perfect appetizer to the more sober and perhaps less entertaining talks that follow.

* * *

AT THE FIRST "Usapang R" at the PUP, the resource persons—Jimmy Tan and I—were followed by a series of reactors representing the faculty and student organizations. Jimmy and I had focused our talks on reproductive health concerns of young people, including date rape and sex education, with Jimmy telling the story of how he and his wife resolved their dilemma when their teenage daughter asked for "permission" to start entertaining suitors.

Imagine my consternation then (Jimmy had to leave earlier), when the reactors took our material to an even higher level, linking gender and sexuality to issues of power and social constructs, political structures and globalization. Asked to react to the reactors, I could only lamely declare that "I agree with everything you said," feeling decidedly outclassed.

In all my talks, the young people never fail to surprise me, though I have long since ceased to be shocked by anything I hear. What seems clear to me is that there is a real dearth of basic knowledge about sexuality and reproduction, and that our young folk are more prepared to handle information about their bodies and their relationships than their elders—parents, teachers, administrators—may think.

As I always say, the most basic right of young people is the right to information, the better to make responsible decisions about their behavior (sexual or otherwise), relationships and their future. We adults can always tell them to avoid sex and stay pure while they're too young to handle the consequences of early sexual initiation. We can even try to frighten them into compliance. But our words will only go in one ear and out the other unless we engage in a sincere and honest dialogue on why it's in their best interest to do so.

* * *

OUR discussions are invariably capped by representatives of the administration who, more often than not, feel compelled to reiterate or state in even stronger terms that "sex is something reserved for the married state," or "virginity is the best gift you can give your husband on your wedding night."

I don't begrudge them this opportunity, and I've come to expect it of them. The kids are their responsibility, after all, and they have the reputation of their institutions to protect.

But if they would only listen to the questions their students are asking, they might realize that young people today confront, day in and day out, overt as well as subliminal messages on sexuality and self-worth that no amount of platitudes, however well-meaning, can effectively counter.

We've been asked questions about sexually transmitted diseases and how a young person can know if he or she has one. We've been asked advice on teenage pregnancy and abandonment by one's boyfriend upon hearing the "happy" news. A number have brought up personal experiences or those of "friends" with date rape, sexual harassment and molestation.

* * *

KNOWLEDGE is liberating and empowering, true, but information is useless to a young person still searching for a sense of self without some guidance and grounding in values.

Maybe that's the problem with thinking that sex education is only a matter of imparting facts about biology, anatomy, reproduction and sexuality—though these are necessary. Even more important is the young person's self-esteem, the sense that he or she is important, and that his or her dreams matter.

This is where empowerment begins, after all. We must work on building their self-respect, which starts with treating them with respect and believing that they are mature enough to process information, relate it to their own lives and use it to make decisions for themselves.

Flat line

YOUNG BLOOD

J.R. Eusebio

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

WHAT has become of us?

Five, six years ago, we all said our generation was going to be different. We imagined how cool we would be. We would graduate from college, work for a while to save some money and eventually put up our own business, and then become masters of our destiny.

We thought that by the time we were 25, the world would be perfect. Each of us would have a faithful boyfriend who, in three years' time, would propose marriage. We would have our own cars. We wouldn't have to put up with a boss who made us work overtime without pay. Hell, we wouldn't even have to work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We would choose when we worked, when we took a rest and when we called it a day.

We even told ourselves we would never become like our mothers. It wasn't that we hated them, though, we just thought that since we knew where they went wrong, we would be smart enough to take another path and never trip over the same barriers that made them fall down.

How could we have been so presumptuous? How could I have been so arrogant? Why did I ever think I would turn out to be any better than all the women who went before me? How could I have put such a heavy burden on my own shoulders?

Now I see everywhere constant reminders of what I cannot handle and what I cannot accomplish. I have awakened from the dream and I see that all I have ever been my entire life is mediocre.

In high school I went to the usual sleepovers, hung out at the same boring fast-food outlet every kid went to, talked about the same topics every girl my age talked about. In college, I did not leave any imprint in my school. I doubt if my classmates would even remember my name.

When I found a job, everyone in our family was very proud of me. Yeah. Of course. And I was earning P7,000 a month—not even enough to buy two Mango shirts. Suddenly I had turned into one of the many faceless Filipinos striving to earn enough to pay off their debts.

You scratch your head every night and think of how you can surface. But how could your cup possibly flow over, when you cannot even fill it to half?

Then I applied for a scholarship in Japan, thinking that it could be the ladder that I needed to reach the level ground where I could start anew. But it is not. It is nothing but a loop I travel for two years, where I get to speak *ching-chong-chang* for a while as if I really know what I am talking about. After which I will find myself where I once was.

And it's getting so boring. I thought I could party to death. I thought I would have trips to the grocery store with my daughter to buy ingredients for the salad I was going to prepare at night. I thought I would have a husband who wore a necktie to work, and I would fix it for him. I thought I would be going down to the bookstore to buy school supplies for my kids, and find my name under the title of one of the best-selling books there.

But it turns out now that even my mother led a more interesting life. At least she had a boyfriend when she was in high school. At least she can always boast about being a single mother, and having been married twice. At least she went out and tasted life—both its sweetness and its bitterness.

Me? I have never even been kissed by a guy. I was so determined to lead a mistake-free, smooth-sailing life that I turned into a friggin' boring spinster. All I can boast of is that I graduated from this school and that—and yet I have never had a life outside of school.

And what is a school campus, compared to the world that my mom dived into? When everybody else her age was drinking Coke, she was worrying about where to get the money for my milk. While other girls were going gaga over Mills and Boons, she was writing her diary of survival.

All this, compared to my life, which can be described as a "flat line."

Where's the drama in our generation? At least our fathers and mothers had "flower power" and stuff like that. I am starting to think we are all talk. But where's the action? Is there really nothing much going on, or am I the only one who's missing it?

J.R. Eusebio, 22, is a mass communications graduate of the University of the Philippines. She's now in Japan taking up a two-year course in photography at the Tokyo Visual Arts College.

Disaster in the Orient

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

A MONTH before the declaration of war (on March 2, 1898), the English press published the news that the North American squadron in the China Sea was in Hong Kong. The Madrid press, in reproducing the notice, stated that their presence in Hong Kong, so near Manila, evinced little alarm in the capital.

In hindsight we are told that something should have been done to defend the sovereignty of Spain in the Philippines. The squadron of General Cervera could have been sent to Manila Bay. Could this squadron have perhaps saved that colony from ruin?

Needless to say, there were no torpedoes guarding the entrance of Manila Bay or the strait to Subic between Punta Camayan and Punta Macmany. Dewey was apparently aware of the lack of defenses of the colony. However, he first went to Subic before proceeding to Manila Bay, expecting to find the Spanish warships there.

Lieutenant Maldonado of the artillery rendered the four large cannons useless. Capt. Juan Urquijo revealed to the press that the cannons were not only un-mounted but the battery wasn't even constructed. Thus, the ships commanded by General Montojo had no protection when the American attack came.

On June 5, Col. Victoriano Pintos abandoned the Zapote defense on orders of the military command. It was a line that was most important to protect Manila from the insurgents in Cavite. A lieutenant in the artillery, seeing the situation in Cavite after the arrival of Aguinaldo, believed that the Spanish forces should have been concentrated around Manila.

When Cavite rose en masse against Spain and the Americans were disembarking on different coasts, the townspeople attacked the garrisons. The retreat to Manila was cut off. In a few days, Manila was besieged as well as all the garrisons in every town.

This might not have happened if the garrisons had reinforced on time the line at Zapote and above all if the line had held, allowing a retreat to Manila. A witness declared that from the first moment the futility of shedding blood was recognized, and thus the garrisons in all the provinces fell without honor to the rebels.

In the capital of the archipelago, all was shadow and sadness, disappointment and misfortune. Despite Gen. Primo de Rivera having declared in the Cortes on May 27 that it was impossible that Manila would fall to the Americans, even if all its its armies were put into the effort, the truth was that the few published telegrams sent by General Augustin to the central government indicated clearly that since the country had risen in rebellion against Spain, it was impossible to prolong its defense indefinitely.

Augustin in a telegram dated June 9 stated that the Tagala insurrection was potent and if the natives could not be depended upon, then the forces were not enough to face two united enemies. His telegram of the 17th averred that the troops fought from block houses and while this contained the advances of the insurgents, their forces were being augmented by the desertion of native troops. Another telegram dated the 19th announced that on the previous night a native company deployed on the exterior line over the Pasig had joined the enemy. That same day, the native cavalry and the Guardia Civil that were defending the exterior line of the barrio of Tondo had revolted, causing great alarm.

The danger grew from moment to moment. From one day to the next, the American soldiers were expected to leave San Francisco de California. On the 27th, it was also announced by telegram that the Spanish forces maintained themselves in the line of block houses but the enemy kept growing due to the surrender of provincial detachments. There were more than 1,000 sick in the garrison and 2,000 wounded. The residents of the rural barrios surrounded the walled city and constituted an obstruction to its defense.

At the same time, Augustin told the government that the Americans on July 9 received 3,000 more men in reinforcement and awaited more, while the number of rebels surrounding Manila were increasing. Daily there were battles in the outposts, making them difficult to maintain. Augustin believed that with ample reforms it was still possible to remove the cause of the insurrection and reverse the tide.

The following day, the defeat of the column of General Monet in Pampanga was announced to the government and details were given that confirmed essentially what had been stated before.

On the 25th, Augustin telegraphed that Manila had been under blockade for three months and two under siege by the insurgents. He added that supplies were running out. Every day the ammunition for rifles grew scarcer and the artillery diminished. Valor wasn't enough, he stressed, and the physical resistance of the troops had its limits. Since there were no reserves for the battle, there was no possibility of resistance with the subsistence and ammunition depleted.

He quoted a military axiom that a plaza under siege is a plaza taken. This maxim is to be understood in the sense that all plazas under siege, sooner or later will fall unless aid is delivered in time, as this one did.

(Data from "Del Desastre Nacional y Sus Causas," D. Damian Isern, 1899.)

Manobo

Jerry Selayro

EVERY time I introduce myself as a Manobo, I get different reactions. I might as well be talking about a new religion or saying I had changed gender. Some people would even ask me if it is a new word.

Yes, I am a Manobo. We are often known through a dance that other people perform. Sometimes we are portrayed as a people who have a different way of dressing and sport tattoos. But we are also people of this planet.

We Manobos live in the highlands of Agusan, Kidapawan and Sultan Kudarat. We group ourselves into a community governed by a *datu*. We have survived, but we are in danger of extinction and we risk losing our culture.

In books, we are described as experts in hunting and living in the trees. We make sacrifices and offerings to God. We still believe the *babaylan* (faith healer) can cure us of any curse inflicted by bad spirits. We strive to preserve our forests and our environment for they are our life support. We are a simple and shy people, and we do not parade ourselves in lavish costumes.

Like my people who are generally shy, I sometimes sit on a corner unnoticed. No one understands me.

Some people have told me that I don't look like a Manobo. I have fair skin and average height, and I got my education in an exclusive school. Sometimes I even wear designer clothes. And I can speak fluent English, unaccented Tagalog, Ilonggo, Cebuano, Ilocano, Maguindanaon, T'Boli as well as Tiruray. Now I am learning French.

But I am a Manobo, and I am proud of it. We have a distinct culture that no one can imitate. Our countrymen may not understand us, but we treasure the things we learned from our ancestors. We may be simple but we are not the simpletons other people think we are.

Anywhere I go, I am who I am. And I am a Manobo and also a Filipino!

Jerry Selayro, 25, is a member of the Marist Brothers congregation and a student at the Marist School in Marikina City.

Intangibles that make a nation great

WHAT a pitiable condition our country is in more than 100 years after Emilio Aguinaldo declared Asia's first republic. Instead of progressing, ours appears to be retrogressing; instead of moving forward, ours is stagnating; instead of becoming a strong republic, ours is weakening by the day. A robust economy remains a dream; a socialized democracy, a far-away hope.

What ails us? Clearly, it is the cycle of poverty, corruption and coups, failed mutinies and insurrections of both recent and remote past bedeviling our land. Unless these demons are exorcised, this nation would continue to be on its way to self-destruction. Strangely enough, the Catholic faith, the dominant religion—in our midst for more than 300 years—seems to be a failure. It has not effectively inculcated moral values on the conscience of its faithful, especially those who have risen to power, considering that in any society it is religion that primarily teaches morality to its adherents. Our public officials who are mostly Catholics are very religious indeed, but sad to say, lose principles and integrity once in power.

Obviously, we lack what Sen. Jovito Salonga calls "the intangibles that make a nation great." And these are integrity, hard work, self-discipline, readiness to serve and sacrifice for the sake of country and people. As a public official until his retirement, Salonga exemplified these intangibles that he discusses in a recent book with the same title. His evangelical faith is the bedrock of his private and public life, ethics and morality. It is what made him a model public servant.

If only as a nation we lived by these intangibles as a way of life, we would have moved on to prosperity a long time ago. Other countries like Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and South Korea have moved on because of these traits, regardless of their religions, while we are left behind as the "Sick man of Asia."

I am no prophet, but the way it looks, unless we truly change as a people for good, we face a bleak future. We are on our way to economic collapse and, far worse, to a divine judgment. History has proven it.

—DAVID V. FELICIANO,
Adlas, Silang, Cavite

Bacolod is a safe place

WE, the undersigned residents of Bacolod City, take exception to published reports about the supposed worsening peace and order situation in Bacolod City. Such reports give the impression that our city is in a state of uncontrollable chaos and disorder.

Commission on Human Rights spokesperson Romeo Baldevarona is said to have remarked that Bacolod City "seemed to be a dangerous place to live in and is more than a forest filled with ferocious and dangerous animals." Coming from a government official dealing with human rights, Baldevarona's statement carried some weight. Given media blare, its sensational undertones drew some attention.

Baldevarona's statement was made after he noted that the salvaging of some people—which, though not a normal occurrence, are also happening in many cities and towns nationwide—was alarming. The killing of the companions of former barangay captain Eleuterio Salabas Jr. and his disappearance, added some urgency to Baldevarona's declaration. Before these, there had been reports of a so-called Bonnet Gang abducting young women, a claim which up to now has not been substantiated by the police. Was the gang a concoction in the mind of some people? Bacolodeños increasingly believe this is so. Some people may be playing on people's fears of the unknown for some reasons.

But is it true that the city has become a dangerous place to live in with people being stabbed, shot dead, clubbed or beaten up by gangs daily? Or is it possible that there are insidious elements out to destroy the city's reputation and that of the leaders for political reasons? Are there envious souls trying to splash acid on the face of this beautiful woman, our city, Bacolod City?

The Bacolod police must do more to curb petty crimes and salvaging. There are things that must indeed be corrected as there is nothing perfect in this world.

We will support any moves, acts, efforts, programs and anything that need to be done by the city government to ensure that Bacolod will continue to be the most livable city in the country. Bacolod City, our beloved city, continues to be the best place for us.

—WITH 33 SIGNATORIES,
City Mayor's Office,
Bacolod City

A catastrophe waiting to happen

THIS refers to a'letter from a resident of Marikina who called public attention to a road-widening project along the Riverbanks Center that reduced the width of the Marikina River waterways.

A similar situation is now happening inside Village East Executive Homes. A bypass creek was dug along a park and playground to shorten the waterways. While the digging was going on, my son-in-law, who is living near Phase 1C of said village, inquired about the project. He was told that it was a joint project of the Municipality of Cainta, City of Antipolo, Sta. Lucia Realty, Antipolo Properties, Village East Homeowners Association's Officers and Engineers, and the Department of Public Works and Highways. The digging isolated the squatters who have established their homes on a piece of land between the original river and the bypass creek. The materials extracted from the digging were subsequently sold or dumped on the properties of certain people, Cougar Land Development's project and the clubhouse park and playground. My nephew called up the DPWH about the project and was told that the government agency was not aware of such project, thus, no permit could have been issued.

As of this writing, the digging operation has been suspended. However, no temporary structures have been installed to avoid cave-ins. There are no warning signs or billboards either announcing the project and the entities or individuals behind it, and so culpabilities could be pinpointed in case of accidents.

A Meralco post supporting high-tension wires, is now leaning after the guy wires supporting it were cut and loosened. In case of heavy downpour, the post could collapse and a live high-tension wire could roast people living nearby, including my son's family.

I would like to call the attention of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its attached agencies, as well as other concerned government instrumentalities, including the DPWH flood control division and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, to investigate this matter before it is too late. This is a catastrophe waiting to happen. It seems that the municipal vice mayor and barangay chair concerned, both of whom are residents of this subdivision, are not aware of the hazards posed by this suspended project to the public.

—MIGUEL LIWANAG FLORES,
Bolanao, Libertad, Antique

Prayer for the First Family

"WHAT God has put together, let no man put asunder."

This biblical fiat, honored in Philippine tradition, must be the guiding principle that Filipinos must observe as Christians.

When Sen. Panfilo Lacson delivered his so-called Chapters I and II exposés, particularly on his allegations against Victoria Toh, he understood pretty well how it could impact on the marriage between President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Mike Arroyo. For the First Couple and their family, I pray that they will understand the intent of Lacson's exposés and learn to just charge them to unfortunate experience common in Philippine politics.

I also pray for the First Family that they fully understand that loving one another is a virtue.

—LIGORIO G.M. NAVAL,
114-B Alima,
Bacoor, Cavite

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

No malice in 'TV Patrol' reports

THIS is in reference to Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon's column entitled "Missing the truth" last Sunday, Sept. 14, 2003.

Please be assured that we appreciate Maglipon's insights and criticisms on "TV Patrol's" news report of two incidents that she discussed in her column. We believe that such constructive criticisms are the kind of feedback we need and could use to keep us always on our toes and perform even better the next time around.

Indeed, Maglipon's boldness and courage to analyze broadcast practices also provide an opportunity to create a system of checks and balances in the media profession.

However, please allow us to clarify that the previous letter ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. sent to your office about Maglipon's column was meant to only assure the public of the efforts that "TV Patrol" correspondents and crew put into their work to ensure the integrity and fairness of their reportage of important and sensitive events.

ABS-CBN maintains that with or without the presence of Korina Sanchez during the May 22 coverage of the young girl who allegedly committed suicide in Quezon City, "TV Patrol" would have still aired the news story, confident as we are of the absolute absence of malice on the part of our correspondent in reporting the facts of the case as provided by the police investigator concerned.

We would also like to assure the public, and Maglipon in particular, that as a matter of policy, "TV Patrol" would have had aired the complaint of the victim's family if only the attention of ABS-CBN was immediately called.

In the case of Erwin Tulfo's remarks, allow us to state that he uttered those words with the best intentions to prevent further unnecessary deaths of well-meaning persons under similar circumstances.

"TV Patrol," along with its other ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs programs, always treats its news coverage with the utmost sensitivity and balance.

—MALOLI ESPINOSA-MANALASTAS,
vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., Sgt. E. A. Esguerra Avenue cor. Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City

Another experience with tow-truck vultures

THE INQUIRER has been publishing letters and stories condemning tow trucks that victimize and mulct helpless motorists. But the motorists' litany of woes goes on as concerned authorities continuously act deaf and blind.

Last Sept. 5, I also became a victim of an abusive tow-truck firm operating under the name Cathy & Kyle Towing Service right in front of my school, Samson College of Science and Technology on Legarda Avenue, Sampaloc, Manila.

My driver, Marlon Cerio, was under instruction to pick up important documents from the school. Inasmuch as it would only take him less than a minute to get the documents, he said he parked my L-300 van with plate number UGT 767 in front of Samson College with its engine and hazard on. Before he entered the school gate, he instructed the guard on duty, Robenido Vistad, to look after the van. About several seconds later, Cathy & Kyle's tow truck maneuvered in front of the van and attached to it its towing apparatus. The guard intervened and pleaded with the tow personnel to wait for a few seconds as the driver was just picking up some documents and would not take a minute. But the arrogant tow personnel insisted and towed the van away. Due to their action, the van's brake system broke down as they towed it with the hand brake on. When the driver went to the impounding area, he could no longer find his 7650 cell phone which he left on the dashboard. My driver has already filed a theft report with the WPD Station 8 in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Upon verification, we learned that Cathy & Kyle is registered with the Metro Manila Development Authority which, by the way, has formulated certain procedures on towing a vehicle. But the problem is, the tow company is also the sole towing service accredited by the City of Manila, hence, it need not have to report to the MMDA. The MMDA procedures are thus toothless in Manila.

I don't mind paying P1,500 to redeem my impounded van, if my driver had indeed violated rules. But I condemn the way this tow truck firm's personnel dragged my van and their arrogance. They also took away my driver's cell phone. If they are really dying to tow my van to "earn" money, they could have just waited a few seconds for the driver to release the hand brake. Where will my driver now go to get back his lost phone when filing a case is more expensive? Lastly, can the Metro Manila mayors and the MMDA please formulate uniform rules so as to spare motorists from the predatory bent of tow-truck people?

—GERALD S. AYCARDO,
president, Samson College of Science and Technology,
Legarda Ave., Sampaloc, Manila

No more Pidal accounts

THE CURRENT controversy over the ownership of the Jose Pidal bank accounts comes on the heels of the Jose Velarde exposé.

In the case of the Jose Velarde bank accounts, had the second envelope been opened during the impeachment trial of the former President, it would have pointed to Jaime Dichaves as the owner of the Jose Velarde accounts and not former President Joseph Estrada. Of course, we all know why the contents of the second envelope officially remained a secret.

In the case of the Jose Pidal bank accounts, a certain Ignacio Arroyo, identifying himself as the brother of the First Gentleman, made a voluntary and unsolicited appearance before the Senate for no other reason than to claim ownership over these accounts.

Understandably, the proper committees of the Senate were called upon not only to verify Ignacio's claim of ownership but also, and more importantly, to formulate remedial legislative measures to prevent a repetition of the Jose Velarde and Jose Pidal accounts. Perhaps, one such measure would be for banks to require a photograph of the owner of the account, among others.

In the discharge of their duties as lawmakers, are they not entitled to ask questions, especially so, when a respondent appears voluntarily before the Senate, foisting a claim that would be foolish to accept as true merely on its face value? Can this duty of the Senate be curtailed, emasculated, or even diluted by an individual's claim to privacy after he had voluntarily exposed and subjected himself to the jurisdiction of the Senate?

—ERNESTO T. ZSHORNACK JR.,
64-A Scout Delgado St.,
Quezon City

The constitutional right to privacy

COMMENTARY

Rafael A. Morales

THE INVOCATION by the President's brother-in-law Ignacio Arroyo, of his right to privacy at the Senate blue ribbon committee hearing on the Jose Pidal exposé, has raised the question of whether that right exists in the first place. Fortunately, jurisprudence provides a definitive answer to it.

There is a constitutional right to privacy. Essentially, it is the "right to be let alone." The US Supreme Court ruled in Griswold v. Connecticut (1965) that the right to privacy has "a constitutional foundation" that can be found within the "penumbras" of the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Ninth Amendments to the US Constitution. Our own Supreme Court in the landmark case of Morfe v. Mutuc (1968) adopted the Griswold ruling that "there is a constitutional right to privacy."

The foremost authority on the subject was former University of the Philippines College of Law Dean Irene R. Cortes, who wrote a book, entitled "The Constitutional Foundations of Privacy," based on her Albino Z. SyCip Lecture Series in 1970. She said: "To the question of whether the right exists in Philippine law, there can be no doubt as to the answer. It most certainly does. The Constitution explicitly provides for the privacy of correspondence and communication and implicitly protects other facets of the right in the other provisions."

Our Supreme Court echoed Cortes when it ruled in Ople v. Torres (1998) that "if we extend our judicial gaze we will find that the right of privacy is recognized and enshrined in several provisions of our Constitution." Indeed, the Bill of Rights expressly provides in Section 3(1) that "the privacy of communication and correspondence shall be inviolable except upon lawful order of the court, or when public safety or order recognizes otherwise as prescribed by law."

In the Ople case, the Supreme Court said that other facets of the right to privacy are protected in the provisions of the Bill of Rights embodying the due process clause (Section 1); the injunction against unreasonable searches and seizures (Section 2); the guarantee of liberty of abode and the right to travel (Section 6); and the right to form unions and associations (Section 8). Even the right against self-incrimination (Section 17) is a facet of the right to privacy; hence, the invocation of the latter arguably includes a resort to the former.

Cortes, speaking as a justice of the Supreme Court, in Valmonte v. Belmonte, Jr. (1989) put to rest the issue, once and for all, when she said categorically: "There can be no doubt that the right to privacy is constitutionally protected."

This brings us to the issue of whether or not Ignacio Arroyo can invoke his right to privacy at the blue ribbon committee hearing. Here again, the Constitution provides the framework for an affirmative answer, as Section 21 of Article VI mandates legislative committees conducting inquiries to respect "the rights of persons appearing in or affected by such inquiries." The right to privacy is certainly one of those rights that have to be respected in legislative inquiries.

Nonetheless, the right to privacy, like any other right, is not absolute. As noted by the Supreme Court in Ayer Productions Pty. Ltd. v. Capulong (1988): "A limited intrusion into a person's privacy has long been regarded as permissible where that person is a public figure and the information sought to be elicited from him or to be published about him constitute matters of public interest."

Under this doctrine, however, two conditions must be present for there to be a permissible intrusion into a person's privacy. Not only must the information sought to be elicited from such person be of public interest. He must also be a public figure. Even assuming, therefore, that the information sought to be elicited from Arroyo is of public interest, he can still invoke his right to privacy at the Senate hearing because he is not a public figure. According to the Supreme Court in the Ayer Productions case, a public figure is "a person who, by his accomplishments, fame, or mode of living, or by adopting a profession or calling which gives the public a legitimate interest in his doings, his affairs, and his character, has become a public personage." Arroyo does not appear to fit this mold.

The foundation of the power of legislative inquiry (as well as the corollary power to punish for contempt) was laid down in Arnault v. Nazareno (1950), at a time when there was no provision in the 1935 Constitution investing either chamber of Congress with such power. But the 1987 Constitution expressly recognizes in Article VI (Section 21) the right of the Senate (or the House of Representatives) to conduct inquiries, subject to three limitations: (1) it must be "in aid of legislation," (2) it must be "in accordance with its duly published rules of procedures," and (3) the "rights of persons appearing in or affected by such inquiries shall be respected."

The Supreme Court in Bengzon, Jr. v. Senate Blue Ribbon Committee (1991) held that for an investigation to be deemed in aid of legislation, there ought to be a "suggestion of contemplated legislation" to be passed after such investigation.

The second limitation obligates Congress to come up, in the first place, with "duly published rules of procedure" for legislative inquiries. There will be a breach of due process if these rules are violated.

The third limitation, as already discussed, is the protection of the rights of persons invited to testify in such legislative inquiries. The right to counsel must be protected. Also to be respected, according to Fr. Joaquin Bernas, "the right to demand, under due process, that Congress observe its own rules." Of course, the right to privacy cannot be disregarded.

Indeed, as Justice Brandeis correctly observed, privacy is "the most comprehensive of rights and the most valued of civilized men."

Rafael A. Morales is a professorial lecturer at the UP College of Law and a senior partner at SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan.

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Farmers demand transparency in gov't stand on free trade

BAGUIO CITY—Farmers in Benguet and Mt. Province want Malacañang to disclose the bilateral agreements it recently made with the United States, Europe and Japan, outside of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Although farmers were elated by the collapse of the 5th World Trade Organization ministerial conference in Cancun, Mexico, they are concerned about America's efforts to introduce new rules on free trade and liberalized investments using bilateral negotiations with the Macapagal administration, said Johnny Uy, a farmer and Benguet provincial board member.

"For all we know, agriculture in the Philippines will still be undermined by new or existing bilateral agreements that already control farm trade, instead of the WTO," he said.

The farmers had supported the Stop The New Round Coalition, a multipartite protest group that was opposed to the Cancun talks.

The Cancun meeting was supposed to discuss a new draft agreement on agriculture that would oblige WTO member nations to immediately cut their tariffs by 30 percent.

The Cancun talks failed when the US and Europe tried to force into the agenda five discussion items that would have introduced the liberalization of global investments. Some 20 developing nations, including the Philippines, objected to the American issues.

The farmers will sustain their campaign to increase state subsidy to Philippine agriculture, contrary to the attempts made by the Philippines and an East Asian coalition in Cancun to pressure the governments of the US, Europe, Japan and Korea to remove their own individual farm subsidies, Uy said.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas said Malacañang should reconsider its negotiating agenda, arguing that most developed countries still require subsidy to rebuild the agriculture industry into a competitive market for GATT.

Molintas, Uy and Johnny Andiso, president of the Benguet Federation of Farmers, complained last month that the government failed to obtain the sentiments of farmers when it embarked on the Cancun negotiations. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Solon, mining exec say NGOs share blame on mining debacle

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Which is the mining industry's biggest antagonist: the World Bank's so-called "interventionist" policies that alter economic policies or militant antimining activists, who oppose foreign-backed corporate mining?

This rather academic concern fueled unexpected discord at a Luzon mining conference on Tuesday when a congressman and a mining firm president demanded the purging of a discussion item that blames the World Bank and other foreign financial institutions for interfering in the country's domestic economic policies.

The concern raised in previous consultations by the Tebtebba Foundation, a United Nations-based advocacy group for indigenous peoples' rights, was included in 14 major discussion points that the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) had scheduled for the Sept. 15-16 Luzon workshop.

The workshop intended to review discordant viewpoints that might affect a National Minerals Policy (NMP), which President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to sign in November, according to MGB Assistant Director Edwin Domingo.

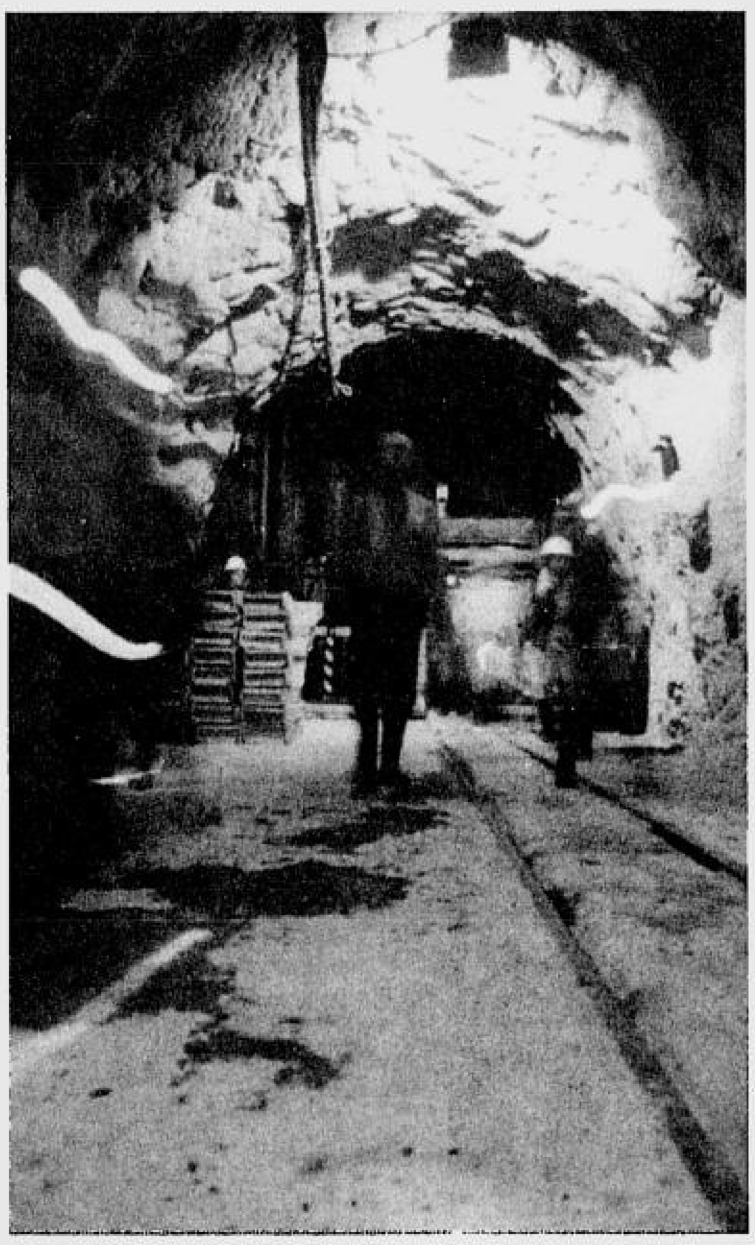
Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan said discussing the role of the WB, the Asian Development Bank and other institutions would be distasteful "because it was the Philippines, which had asked for their help."

The congressman insisted that the conference strike out this talking point to avoid embarrassing the government.

In supporting Domogan, Philip Romualdez, president and corporate executive officer of the 100-year-old Benguet Corp., asked a review group working on industry economics to widen the scope of this discussion item to include foreign-backed foundations and non-government organizations that organize communities against corporate mining.

"Let's be fair about this. If (the review group) is ready to discuss how these established institutions are (harming) Philippine mining, then I sincerely suggest we discuss (the impact made) by (antimining) foundations on the industry," Romualdez said.

He said antimine extremists had forced the industry to slow down, leaving only potential exploration work to be offered to investors. He said even exploration applications are being hounded by the NGOs.



MINERS in a tunnel of the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp.

E.V. ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Comelec allows plebiscite on Vizcaya mining

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The Commission on Elections has approved the holding of a plebiscite to allow or not mining operations in Barangay Didipio in Kasibu town, a six-hour travel by land from here.

In an en banc resolution Sept. 11, the Comelec ordered its deputy executive director for operations to conduct the plebiscite in 30 days after the approval of the resolution.

The plebiscite was proposed through a barangay initiative by petitioners Peter Duyapat, Juan Pumihic, Marina Ansibey, Julian Inlab and Lorenzo Pulido, all members of the Didipio Earth Savers Movement Association (Desama).

The plebiscite seeks to gather support from the affected residents whether to adopt or reject the petition for the adoption of a resolution denying concurrence to the memorandum of agreement between officials of Barangay Didipio and Climax Arimco Mining Corp. (CAMC).

It also seeks to adopt or reject the petition preventing the Sangguniang Barangay from entering into any contract with CAMC, and denying concurrence to the construction of a tailings dam, diversion and drainage tunnels and open canal in the area. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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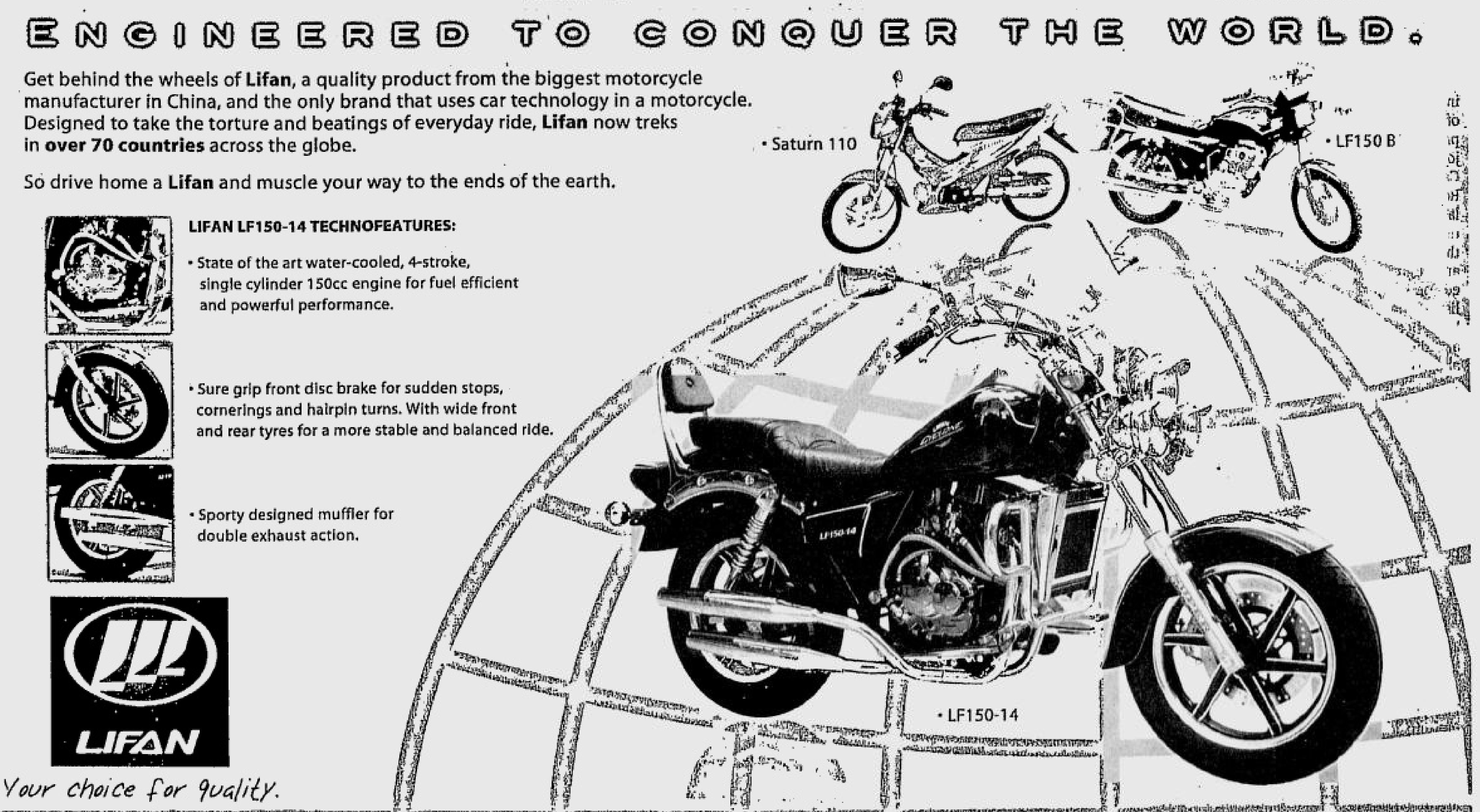

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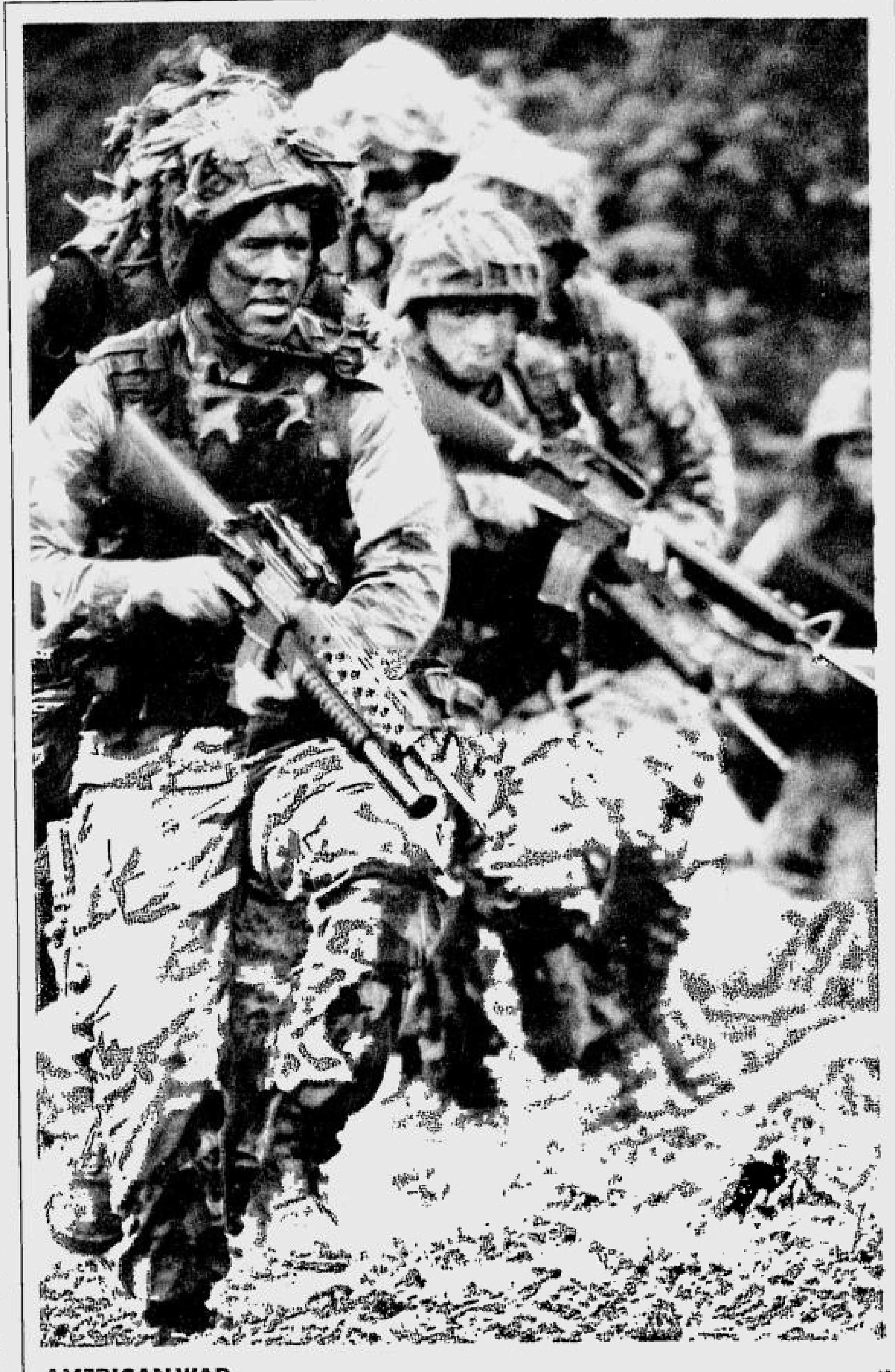

AMERICAN WAR AP
American soldiers take positions against imaginary enemies during war games with Philippine troops at the Philippine Marines Training Base in Ternate, Cavite.

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But Fuentes said based on accounts of witnesses, the group behind the attempt on Villanueva's life was a lost command of the MILF led by a commander Jojo. *Aquiles Z. Zonio and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Cagayan judge rejects bribe

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A judge in Tuao, Cagayan, turned over a P50,000-bribe to the government after he refused to accept it from a woman whose son was being tried for rape in his sala. Cagayan Rep. Manuel Mamba said the woman left the money on the office desk of Judge Orlando Beltran. The woman reportedly said the amount was a "gift" for the judge. Mamba commended Beltran's honesty after Beltran remitted the money to the national treasury. It was not known, however, if the woman was arrested for bribery.
Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

'Our Lady of Piat' book

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The archdiocese of Tuguegarao is launching a book about the Our Lady of Piat in time for 400th anniversary of the image's arrival in Cagayan next year. The 256-page "Our Lady of Piat: The Miraculous Brown Madonna of Cagayan Valley," was written by Roberto Cannu Caballero and will be off the press in time for the quadricentennial celebrations of the Our Lady of Piat's arrival in Cagayan in June next year. The book chronicles the history of the miraculous image and her voyage from Macau to Cagayan.
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'Bath Fest' in Los Baños

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—This town celebrates the 2nd Bañamos Festival from this week until Sunday, according to Mayor Caesar Perez. "We have agreed to make this festival a real celebration of God's gifts to our country—scenic and world-class mountains, lakes and hot springs," Perez said. Highlights of the festival are the "Makiling Mountain Quest," an adventure race event that includes running, biking, river trailing, hiking, treasure hunting, rappelling and team games on Mt. Makiling on Sept. 21; the "Balye sa Kalye," with 25 groups performing colorful street dancing and "Tuklas Agham," a tour of several academic and research institutions in the town. A trade fair is also set on Sept. 17-21. For details, contact Robby Cereno at tel. No. (049)536 3572 or email at makiling@Laguna.net. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

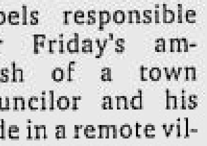
Mom's health bill discussed

COTABATO CITY—Government and private sector representatives on Thursday discussed a proposed law that promotes the health and well being of mothers and children. The gathering, dubbed "Grand Alliance" of multi-sectoral groups in Maguindanao was held at the capital town of Shariff Aguak, said program organizer Dr. Tahir Sulaik. A policy conference on reproductive health highlighted the occasion, said Sulaik, who is also Maguindanao's health chief. "The Reproductive Health Care Act of 2002" is awaiting approval from both chambers of Congress. Sulaik said there is an urgent need to support the bills after provincial health records show an increase in maternal and infant mortality rate due to inadequate funding.
Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Sore eye alert in Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—The city health office has warned the public on the spread of an eye disease in public and private schools. Dr. Abdullah Dumama, city health chief, also urged the parents of children to maintain their cleanliness and hygiene. "Sore eyes is spreading but the situation is not alarming," Dumama said, explaining there was no "pink eye disease" in the city. Dumama warned the public against the idea of washing eyes with early morning urine as practiced by elders. "It's dangerous and could affect vision," he warned. *Edwin O.Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



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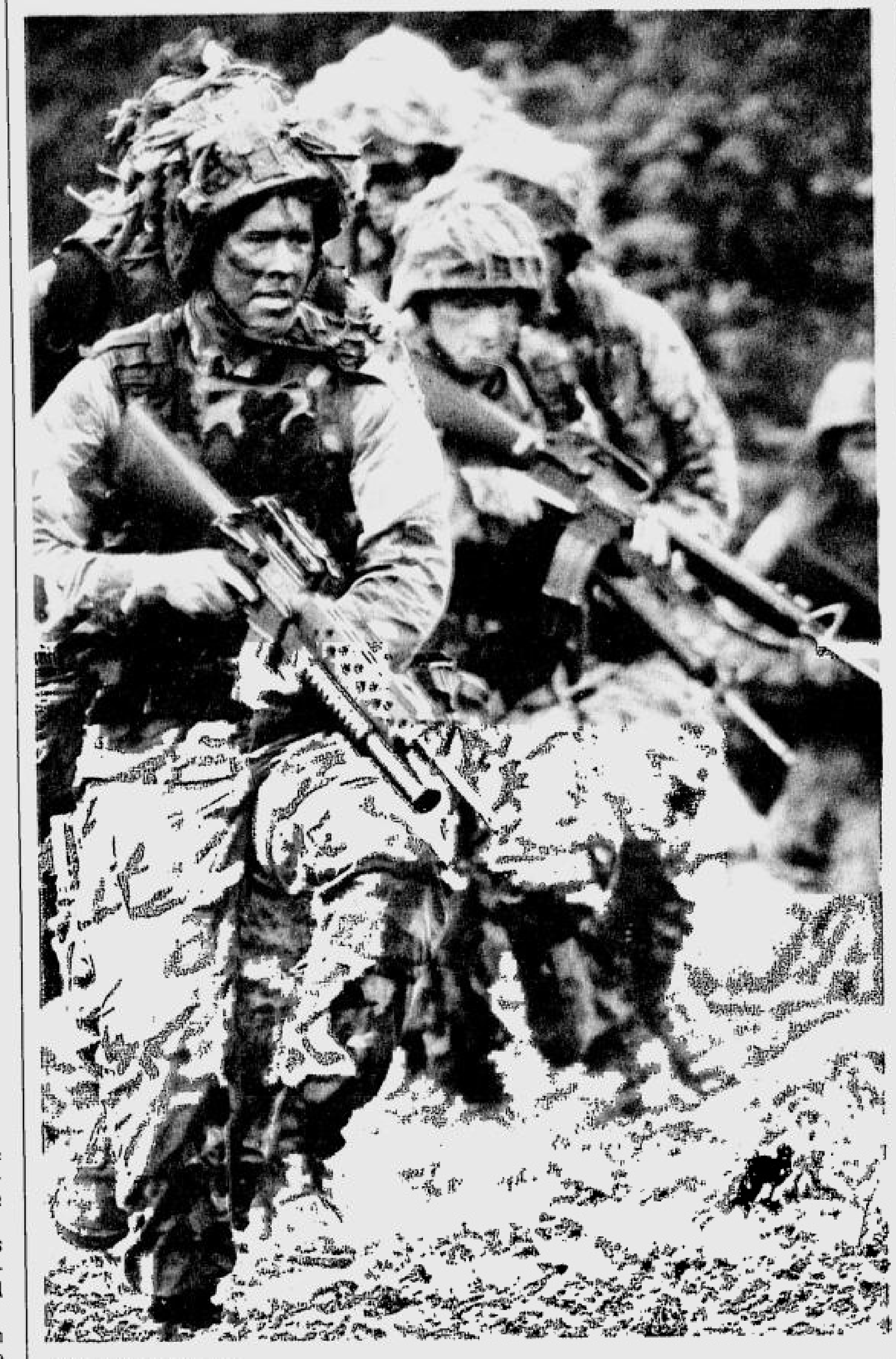

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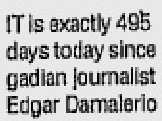

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ROUNDUP

Cagayan judge rejects bribe

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A judge in Tuao, Cagayan, turned over a P50,000-bribe to the government after he refused to accept it from a woman whose son was being tried for rape in his sala. Cagayan Rep. Manuel Mamba said the woman left the money on the office desk of Judge Orlando Beltran. The woman reportedly said the amount was a "gift" for the judge. Mamba commended Beltran's honesty after Beltran remitted the money to the national treasury. It was not known, however, if the woman was arrested for bribery.
Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

'Our Lady of Piat' book

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The archdiocese of Tuguegarao is launching a book about the Our Lady of Piat in time for 400th anniversary of the image's arrival in Cagayan next year. The 256-page "Our Lady of Piat: The Miraculous Brown Madonna of Cagayan Valley," was written by Roberto Cannu Caballero and will be off the press in time for the quadricentennial celebrations of the Our Lady of Piat's arrival in Cagayan in June next year. The book chronicles the history of the miraculous image and her voyage from Macau to Cagayan.
Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

'Bath Fest' in Los Baños

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—This town celebrates the 2nd Bañamos Festival from this week until Sunday, according to Mayor Caesar Perez. "We have agreed to make this festival a real celebration of God's gifts to our country—scenic and world-class mountains, lakes and hot springs," Perez said. Highlights of the festival are the "Makiling Mountain Quest," an adventure race event that includes running, biking, river trailing, hiking, treasure hunting, rappelling and team games on Mt. Makiling on Sept. 21; the "Balye sa Kalye," with 25 groups performing colorful street dancing and "Tuklas Agham," a tour of several academic and research institutions in the town. A trade fair is also set on Sept. 17-21. For details, contact Robby Cereno at tel. No. (049)536 3572 or email at makiling@Laguna.net. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Mom's health bill discussed

COTABATO CITY—Government and private sector representatives on Thursday discussed a proposed law that promotes the health and well being of mothers and children. The gathering, dubbed "Grand Alliance" of multi-sectoral groups in Maguindanao was held at the capital town of Shariff Aguak, said program organizer Dr. Tahir Sulaik. A policy conference on reproductive health highlighted the occasion, said Sulaik, who is also Maguindanao's health chief. "The Reproductive Health Care Act of 2002" is awaiting approval from both chambers of Congress. Sulaik said there is an urgent need to support the bills after provincial health records show an increase in maternal and infant mortality rate due to inadequate funding.
Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Sore eye alert in Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—The city health office has warned the public on the spread of an eye disease in public and private schools. Dr. Abdullah Dumama, city health chief, also urged the parents of children to maintain their cleanliness and hygiene. "Sore eyes is spreading but the situation is not alarming," Dumama said, explaining there was no "pink eye disease" in the city. Dumama warned the public against the idea of washing eyes with early morning urine as practiced by elders. "It's dangerous and could affect vision," he warned. *Edwin O.Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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PHILIPPINE SPOTTED DEER

The breeding of a 'national treasure'

The Philippine Spotted Deer ZOO.ORG.AU

By Romy G. Amarado
Dumaguete City

THE survival of the critically endangered Philippine Spotted Deer (*Cervus alfredi*), which is found only on the islands of Negros and Panay is now certain with the success of a captive-breeding program in Dumaguete, Bacolod and Iloilo cities, and abroad.

This has become a reality through the pioneering work of the Silliman University's Center for Tropical Conservation Studies (Centrop). A unit of the school's biology department, Centrop established the A.Y. Reyes Zoological and Botanical Garden, one-hectare mini-forest which houses the captive-breeding center in Barangay Daro in Dumaguete.

The center's breeding program began in 1989 with three female and two male spotted deer. As of last month, more than 30 deer have already been born, 23 of which survived.

Felina A.Tiempo, coordinator of the project, said some of those born in captivity were brought to the Negros Forest and Ecological Foundation Inc. in Bacolod, which also moved doe or buck to Centrop.

"The transfer of animals on a breeding loan is a management strategy to maintain a genetically sound world herd of the Philippine Spotted Deer, which will ensure the survival of the species, albeit in captivity," said Tiempo, who retired as a biology professor from Silliman.

Also, in 1993, six deer from the SU breeding center were "loaned out" to the Mulhouse Zoo in France. The animals eventually multiplied, she said.

World herd

Tiempo said some of the offspring found their way to other zoos in the world. She did not say where and how many deer had already been produced abroad, but she gave assurance that the herd remains the property of the Philippine government.

"All these arrangements are properly covered by memorandums of agreement among the parties concerned," Tiempo said.

She said around 100 Philippine Spotted Deer were now being kept in captivity worldwide, including those at Silliman, Bacolod and Iloilo. The breeding center of Silliman has retained five does and nine bucks, two of which were born in July and August.

With its growing number of spotted deer, Tiempo said Centrop was entertaining the idea of implementing a local breeding extension program under which an interested individual may take care or raise a deer.

Dr. Angelina Cadelina, Centrop director, said many people wanted to keep the animals as pets or as a sort of status symbol. In fact, she said, she knew of some national legislators and affluent individuals who raise the spotted deer right in their homes.

The Centrop is also planning to release some animals to the wild, but within a protected area.

Threat remains

While those in captivity enjoy ample protection, others in the wild are constantly under threat from hunters. This has prompted the Negros Oriental provincial government to intensify an educational campaign for the protection of the wildlife in the province.

Vice Gov. Jose Baldado, who was assigned by the provincial government to spearhead efforts to protect and conserve wildlife, said many people were lured to hunt the Philippine spotted deer because its tasty meat could fetch a selling price of as much as P700 a kilo.

The spotted deer are found in the southern part of the province, especially in Basay town, 130 km south of Dumaguete.

Baldado said he would personally request the deer hunters to stop their activities.

He said he had already provided police authorities with copies of an ordinance that mandates the protection and conservation of wildlife.

Cadelina said the vice governor, along with other individuals and public and private agencies, and her office were now closely working together towards that end.

Since the Philippine spotted deer is found only in the Philippines, it is therefore a national treasure and everybody should ensure its protection and conservation, Tiempo said.

Calbayog crows about its chicken joy and pride

By Vicente S. Labro
Calbayog City

THEY flapped their wings, scratched the ground, and wiggled their tails as they danced and romped through the main streets of Calbayog City, during the vesper day parade on Sept. 7, held in celebration of the city fiesta in honor of the Our Lady of Nativity.

THE Sarakiki-Hadang Festival dancers perform on the streets of Calbayog during the city's vesper day parade on Sept. 7. VEN LABRO

People lined both sides of the street to witness another performance of the Sarakiki-Hadang Festival. They also went to the Christ the King College grounds for the formal presentation of a dance, ritual by the skilled dancers dressed like chickens. In fact, the dancers had become the joy and pride of the locals who would always crow about the dance group's success.

The group was first organized as the Sarakiki Festival in the mid-1990s, during the term of then Mayor Reynaldo Uy, who is now the representative of Samar's first district. The city government wanted then to have a festival that would instill pride and sense of identity among the Calbayognons and to unify them as one community. They settled on the Sarakiki Festival.

Sarakiki is said to be based on the legend of Ilahas and Mahusay, which means wildlife and beautiful. According to legend, Ilahas invented a new dance that he and Mahusay performed before their tribe in Ibatan (now Calbayog). The dance movements were patterned after those of a cock.

Sarakiki is a Waray term that describes the movement of a rooster when it tries to court a hen or to provoke another rooster to a fight. The cock spreads one of his wings down and moves fast with one leg up, around the object his love or enemy. Imitating the rooster, the dancers also clench their fists with the thumbs out, to represent the fowl's gaff (*tadi* in Waray and *tari* in Tagalog).

Incidentally, the dance movements can also be seen in the *kuratsa*, a popular courtship dance of the Warays.

Ancient rite

Since its first public appearance, the city government, through the City Arts and Culture Office, has sponsored the Sarakiki Festival. Aside from the city officials, parents, students and members of private organizations have also been supportive of the event.

When Mayor Mel Senen Sarmiento assumed office in 2001, the holding of the festival was temporarily stopped. It was revived the following year as the Sarakiki-Hadang Festival.

Hadang is an ancient rite said to have been performed by early Calbayognons when asking the gods for a bountiful harvest, cure of the sick, or the defeat of the enemy, among others.

A Hadang Ritual Competition marked the opening of the recent week-long festival. The first prize went to the Trinidad National High School, while the national high schools of Oquendo and San Joaquin bagged the second and third prizes.

Among the other features of the celebration were cultural shows, body-painting contest, band competition and a regional brain and beauty contest dubbed "Search for Miss Anyag 2003," which was won by 18-year-old Ruby Rose Reyes of nearby Gandara, Samar.

The Sarakiki-Hadang Festival group is composed of 109 student-dancers from different city schools and 15 city government employees. It uses at least 12 bamboo drums, 12 snare drums and six bass drums.

Wacky dance

And whenever the beating of the drums starts, lead dancer Eddie "Wacky" Flores again leads his flock of dancing chickens in what seemed to be a frenzied but actually well-coordinated movements that never fail to enthrall the crowd.

With adrenaline rushing, Wacky and his fellow dancers perform the rooster's courtship movement by swaying their body, stomping their feet, and flailing their hands to the rhythm of the drumbeats.

On his own, Wacky would perform his own version of the "chicken walk" or wag his long feather tail to the delight of the crowd.

The Sarakiki has already won several awards in regional competitions. During the recent Tandaya-Ibabao Festival of Festivals in Tacloban City, it no longer competed but performed an exhibition number.

In the national scene, the group was recently adjudged second runner-up during the Aliwan Festival dance competition in May at the Star City. It was also invited to perform during the opening on Sept. 18 of the "Best in Region 8," an activity sponsored by the Department of Tourism under its "WOW Philippines" program.

Casuals in the registration

BACOLOD EXCHANGE
Ninfa R. Leonarda

THE REGISTRATION of new voters and the revalidation of old ones had already started, but a few people in Bacolod City seemed to be aware about it until the issue of the casual workers came up.

A newly formed concerned citizens group called the Bacolod Liberation Movement suddenly zoomed in on the fact that the staff members being used by the local Commission on Elections office in processing applications and interviewing registrants were largely casual workers of City Hall, supplied by Mayor Lusviminda Valdez.

The discovery raised a big howl, especially from the Sangguniang Panlungsod as many councilors claimed to have known nothing about the arrangement. With the strong suspicions that had not been erased since the last election about the leanings of the city registrar, the council members began to look more closely into the arrangement between the city executive and the Comelec.

Matters worsened when one of the councilors, Archie Baribar, confirmed that it was, indeed, true, that the city's casual workers were also being used to recruit registrants, with each one having a quota of at least 10.

Confronted with the claims, the mayor denied everything and claimed that if she had indeed initiated the "recruitment," she would have asked for 100, not only 10. So the joke of the town now was that Bacolod had not only been victimized by pyramid investment scams, it was also seeing pyramids in voter registrations.

Despite the protests against the use of the Valdez casuals, however, the Comelec has reportedly justified borrowing them from the city executive because its own office has no funds to pay workers to do it.

The concerned citizens are trying their best to monitor the proceedings. Still, many complaints are heard about registrants, who are not "identified" by those interviewing, seem to be given more requirements to submit than those suspected to belong to the pyramid.

Unfortunately, the complainants seem to have lost faith in the Comelec registrar since nobody appears to be directing their questions to him.

Even the local media still recall how registrar Norberto Plagata had completely ignored calls for him to put up a tally board while canvassing was going on the last time, and the way he dismissed questions and protests against procedures from lawyers of the opposing groups.

The Comelec provincial office has acknowledged that the practice of using city casuals is not at all ideal, but the national office seems to tolerate it. And so Bacolod voters are again crossing their fingers as to how credible the next election will be, with the computerization and all.

The Comelec affair still puzzles many people because the local office does not seem too zealous in disseminating information about the registration. So far, it is doubtful if half of those supposed to file applications or revalidate their old records have already done so.

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THE ISSUE was soon eclipsed by a petition from students of the city-owned Bacolod City College about conditions in their school. Aside from what they scored as poor maintenance, the students said that their computers and typewriters are all out of order, and that some of their teachers are handling subjects they are not qualified for.

Worse, their college head has been holding the post on officer-in-charge basis only for several years now because she does not have and has not acquired the proper civil service eligibility for the position. The students claimed they presented their woes to the school head, as well as to the city mayor, but months had passed with neither response nor action was taken.

To make matters worse, a former student filed a sexual harassment complaint against an instructor.

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BUT the biggest issue to explode in the city last week was the discovery of the bodies of two young men who were instructors of maritime schools. Their bodies were separately found in the neighboring city of Bago and in Pulupandan town.

Earlier, they were known to be with an official of the Visayan Maritime Academy, former barangay chair Eleuterio Salabas in Bacolod. Salabas was still missing as of the writing.

The news stunned the city, especially because the two victims were both visitors who had come with their students to train in the VMC. Ricardo Suganob was from Cagayan de Oro City, while Maximo Lumongo was from Misamis Oriental. Both had been shot in the head and dumped in separate areas.

The murders or salvaging were the last straw for Bacoleños. The weeks before, several bodies had also turned up within the city, and the police had not been too successful in solving the crimes.

The head of the local office of the Commission on Human Rights must have been so fed up, that he did not only express alarm over the unbridled crimes, he also declared to the media that living in Bacolod was like living "in a jungle full of ferocious and dangerous animals."

And the administration has just been flaunting its title of being the second "most livable city" in the country.

German bank won't release Marcos loot

From page A1

Court, said that Hawaii Judge Manuel Real's ruling could have instigated the WestLB action.

No authority

He added that the bank did not have the authority to withhold the money "without proper court action."

Ballasillo said that Real's ruling cannot be enforced in Singapore since it is beyond US jurisdiction.

Last Sept. 2, Real ruled against the transfer of the $683 million to the Philippine government and threatened to cite for obstruction of justice anyone. who would do so.

Real dismissed the Supreme Court decision on July 15 that said the $683 million was ill-gotten and ordered its forfeiture in favor of the government.

The Marcoses had appealed the SC decision declaring the money as ill-gotten.

Ballasillo said that he received yesterday the SC resolution ordering the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) to comment on the Marcoses' motion for reconsideration. The OSG has 10 days to file its comment.

Real ruling

In his ruling, Real said that it violated the Marcoses' right to due process.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. said the high court en banc would deal with Real's decision once it receives an official copy.

"You just wait to what the action our Supreme Court shall do the moment we are formally furnished with the copy of the ruling of Judge Manuel Real," he told reporters yesterday during the awards ceremonies of the 2003 Search for Outstanding Judges and Other Court Officers at the Court of Appeals.

"I cannot make any opinion on that because it is a matter which really requires the en banc opinion and we have not received any copy officially of the ruling," he added.

Only a district judge

When asked if Real's ruling is enforceable in the Philippines, Davide said: "In the first place, Judge Real is only a district court judge, a district court is just equivalent to our regional trial court so you could see the impact of any statement made by an inferior court."

But Real's ruling stated that, "The Court concludes due process by any standard was not afforded in the ruling of the Philippine Supreme Court setting aside its own rules of evidence and procedure to render its judgment. Its judgment is entitled to no respect or deference by this Court and none is given," Real said.

Compromise settlement

"No civilized notion of due process would permit the adjudication of such substantial claims after more than 15 years in several international forums without allowing the parties on both sides to appear and present evidence as the Swiss court was assured would occur before it permitted transfer of the funds to Singapore. The Supreme Court ruled without requiring the government to prove its claim the property was unlawfully acquired. Due process requires that a claimant prove at least by a preponderance of evidence its claim," he added.

In his seven-page "memorandum and order," Real reinstated the 1999 compromise settlement between the government and human rights victims to ensure that the victims would get a share of the money.

The settlement was hatched during the Estrada administration but the Philippines later reneged on it. Under the settlement, the human rights victims were supposed to receive $150 million.

Money 'protected'

"While it is true (that) under this reinstated judgment the Marcos family receives part of the proceeds, since the consent of his representatives in this action will be necessary to the implementation, (the Philippine government) agreed to the distribution, when it entered its undertaking since such was essential to distribution of the funds from the corpus in Singapore," Real ruled.

But a high-ranking official involved in the quest to recover the Marcos wealth downplayed the decision of the German bank in Singapore.

The official, who wished not to be identified, said the portion WestLB AG bank is holding amounts to only around $22 million of the $683 million that the Supreme Court ordered forfeited in favor of the government.

He claimed that the remaining portion of the amount is now "protected" after the other banks where it was deposited "complied" with the SC order.

The official said that right after the landmark SC decision, the PNB acted swiftly to "secure" the money.'

He refused to give further details but said: "All the banks (complied) except for this (WestLB)."

Blames Robert Swift

The official blamed Robert Swift, a lawyer of a faction of human rights claimants, and Marcos lawyer. Patrick Foetish, for WestLB's decision.

The official said the two lawyers are now working together after Judge Real reinstated the 1999 settlement agreement between the Marcoses and the human rights victims.

The official noted that Swift is asking for $34 million in lawyer's fees that would be taken out of the $683 million.

Banks ignore lawyers

He said that after the SC decision, Foetish went to banks in Switzerland and Singapore and asked them not to comply with the high court's order. The official said the banks ignored him.

After Real came out with the ruling banning the transfer of the Marcos money, Foetish and Swift went to Singapore, armed with a copy of Real's decision, and tried again to convince the banks to hold on to the money, the official said.

The official said all banks, except for WestLB, ignored them.

He called on the human rights victims to reconsider their relationship with Swift.

"If they truly believe that the Marcoses stole from this country and abused its people, I'm not sure that they will be happy when they know that their lawyer is now a partner of the Marcoses," the official said.

He added that Swift reportedly issued a statement saying that he did not believe the $683 million was ill-gotten wealth.

IBP to Hawaii judge: Apologize to SC

By Philip Tubeza

THE COUNTRY'S leading lawyers group has called for the dismissal and disbarment of Hawaii Judge Manuel Real.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines also demanded that Real issue an immediate public apology to the Supreme Court.

"Considering that your irresponsible, baseless and unseemly actuation undermined the entire Philippine judicial system, it behooves the United States government, the US Supreme Court, and the American Bar Association to discipline you by removing you from service and disbarring you," the IBP said in a two-page letter it sent to the judge.

Not US colony

"The IBP, comprised of 43,823 lawyers, strongly and vehemently denounces your irresponsible, false, ignorant, and malicious order against the Philippine Supreme Court," said the letter signed by IBP President Jose Anselmo Cadiz.

"Please remember that the Philippines had long ceased to be a colony of the United States of America. The Republic of the Philippines is a sovereign and independent nation," the IBP said.

Ridicule

"It is the high handed and arrogant actuation and posturing of people like you, which diminish the goodwill of the American people in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and in other parts of the world," it added.

The IBP said that Real's "false, unwarranted and malicious attack" on the SC "exposed the Philippines' highest tribunal to ridicule and contumely, both locally and internationally."

"It erodes the confidence of the Filipino people on the very institution that safeguards the supremacy of the Philippine Constitution and promotes adherence to the Rule of Law.' More importantly, it tends to forestall the release of much-needed funds intended for agrarian reform in order to alleviate the plight of poor Filipino farmers," it added.

MANGGAGAWA AT MAGSASAKA!!

REMINDERS OF MARTIAL LAW Militant protesters show photos of human rights violations and police brutality to antiriot policemen during a rally on Morayta and C. M. Recto in Manila to commemorate Sunday's 31st anniversary of the declaration of martial law.

ERIK ARAZAS

SUPPORTERS of ousted President Joseph Estrada clash with policemen during a protest-rally in Makati to demand the resignation of President Macapagal Arroyo. The protest was organized by People's Movement Against Poverty.

DENNIS SABANGAN

6 out of 10 Filipinos reject martial law

From page A1

the Oakwood mutineers to set up a civilian-military junta as well as the "destabilizing and incessant coup rumors that have been hounding the nation," Pulse Asia said.

"This may show the citizenry's aversion to having a military junta take charge of the country," it said.

Upper class

The number of Filipinos agreeing to martial law stood unchanged at 24 percent, the same number recorded in the April survey. Fourteen percent pronounced themselves undecided in the latest survey.

Significantly, the rich ABC class and respondents from the urban areas of Luzon seemed to be more open to authoritarian measures. The two groups registered significant increases in the number agreeing to martial law.

Pulse Asia noted that 18 percent of the ABC class said they preferred martial rule, compared to 9 percent in April.

Twenty-five percent of urban Luzon respondents said they wanted martial law, against the 15 percent that said so in April.

"The apparent openness of the upper class to martial law may be a reaction to the instability caused by the same coup rumors," Pulse Asia said.

The polling firm also noted an "urban-rural split" in opinion in Mindanao, the main theater of military operations against various insurgent and terrorist groups.

Mindanaoans

Pulse Asia said that 73 percent of rural Mindanaoans strongly reject martial law while urban Mindanaoans would "appear comparatively more open," with 32 percent agreeing and 43 percent disagreeing.

But it pointed out that most geographic areas and socio-economic classes registered significant increases in disagreement with the survey's test statement: "Candidly speaking, it may be necessary now to have martial law to solve the many crises of the nation."

Urban Visayans registered a fairly strong rejection (70 percent disagree) while Filipinos in urban Luzon appear to be more open to the idea (53 percent disagree).

Pulse Asia recalled that when it first tested public opinion on martial law in October 2001, disagreement with the need for martial law had been hovering in the 50 to 60 percent level.

It noted that disagreement to martial rule reached 64 percent in April 2002, or a month before the first anniversary of the so-called "Edsa III" failed revolt by supporters of deposed President Estrada on May 1, 2001.

"It can be recalled that this was a time when coup rumors and instability were also in the air," the survey firm said.

Pulse Asia pointed out in its report that the opposition to martial law exists independently of the respondents' opinion of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Opinion rejecting martial law is homogeneous regardless of whether people approve or not of the President's performance," it said.

"This suggests that the opinion is held based on an appreciation of the relative merits of institutions rather than of personalities," Pulse Asia said.

The survey, which Pulse Asia said it undertook on its own, covered 1,200 adult respondents nationwide and had an error margin of plus or minus 3.

Kidnaps on rise; GMA orders crackdown

From page A1

As a result, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered a renewed crackdown on kidnapping, noting that the Philippine National Police's old strategy has proved ineffective against a recent wave of abductions by new criminal syndicates.

"The PNP has taken down a good number of big syndicates in its original list but I am informed that there have been new groups that have sprouted," the President said in a statement.

She said she had directed PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane to "make a quick reassessment and new order of battle" followed by a renewed crackdown.

"The war against kidnapping is of crucial importance to business confidence and I do not want an extended slack in vigilance," she said.

The President's order came in the wake of a reported new rash of kidnapping cases, with police officers among the suspects in some cases.

"Police should double their efforts. It seems they are distracted by other issues like drugs and terrorism," Ang-See said.

According to the Caac, three Chinese-Filipino kidnap victims were released recently after paying at least P5 million in ransom.

One of the victims, a 78-year-old elderly woman suffering from a heart condition, has not been released, Ang-See said.

Another victim, an Indian, was rescued by police in Muntinlupa City. The cases were never reported to the police, she said.

Disputed figures

Interior Secretary Jose Lina disputed Ang-See's figures. Quoting NCR Police Office chief Gen. Reynaldo Velasco, he said the number was less than the 17 quoted by Ang-See.

PNP community relations chief Ricardo de Leon said police records showed a drop in kidnappings since last month, with 11 cases from August to mid-September compared to 14 during the same period last year.

He said for the whole of last year, there were 64 kidnappings.

De Leon said the figures cited by Ang-See show there may be a number of cases that are not being reported to police. He urged that all cases be reported.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal wanted immediate results, but as the new directive involved only a change in strategy, not a change in personnel, no PNP heads are likely to roll.

The President said the police, the victims' families and the community must work together to "get this threat out of the way like we did several months ago."

Last year, the President created the Presidential Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) unit within the PNP to go after at least 14 major kidnap gangs in a bid to end the country's reputation as Asia's kidnap capital.

Ms Macapagal and her top law enforcement officials have linked certain unnamed politicians to the recent rash of kidnappings, bank robberies and assassinations.

New kidnap groups

Ang-See said she believed that new kidnapping groups that have sprung up were remnants of old groups, and in some cases police were suspected to be involved.

De Leon said police have been running after rogue officers suspected of involvement in kidnappings, including three Manila policemen who were arrested recently.

Ang-See said the police should not use the coming Christmas season and the impending elections as an excuse to brush away reports of the reported rise in kidnappings in Metro Manila.

"This is usually the period where there is an upswing of kidnapping cases. If they know that already, they should find solutions," Ang-See said in a phone interview.

She said concern over the reported upsurge in kidnappings has risen in the business community. She said the issue was the main topic of conversation at a recent business meeting that she attended.

Big issues for big businesses

"It becomes an issue for big business because what is at stake is their security and peace of mind," said Ang-See.

The abductions have also become an issue for lower-middle-class families, which have also become the prey of the kidnap gangs, she said.

In the past, the gangs often targeted ethnic Chinese who are widely perceived to be wealthy and reluctant to report crimes.

There is also a widespread belief that rogue police or military men are involved in kidnappings, further deterring victims from reporting the crimes.

Ang-See called on the public to "be very vigilant."

"When they feel they are under surveillance, they should report it immediately," she said.

She cited the case of tricycle drivers of Sta. Mesa Heights in Quezon City who never reported to police the presence of a suspicious-looking van which was being used for kidnappings in the area.

The military also reported yesterday that government troops had clashed with a kidnap gang in Mindanao early Thursday.

There were no military casualties in the firefight that erupted before dawn near the town of Sultan Pendatun, Maguindanao province, said military spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero.

He told Agence France Presse the gang was part of the Pentagon group that has kidnapped foreigners in the past.

FOUR DIGIT
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(In exact order)

SUERTRES
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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

We have a right to be happy, say cops

By Leila Salaverria

WHAT about our constitutional right to be happy?

Officials of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association yesterday expressed their opposition to the Philippine National Police's latest policy banning lawmen from going to nightclubs and beerhouses.

MFBAI vice president SP02 Virgo Villareal said the PNP's policy is depriving the lawmen of their right to unwind and enjoy themselves after working hours.

"Sometimes we get invited by our friends or family members to go out and drink, and we accept... What is wrong with that?" Villareal said in an interview yesterday.

He added that as long as policemen do not become abusive, they have the right to enjoy themselves, especially during their off hours.

SP02 Antonio Emmanuel, the group's spokesperson, said the policy would ruin a policeman's social life and suggested that the PNP draw up guidelines that would exempt certain lawmen from the ban.

Emmanuel said policemen who are off-duty, in civilian clothes and are unarmed should not be prevented from visiting nightspots.

He pointed out that there are two kinds of policemen: those who go out to drink occasionally or to unwind, and those who are so abusive that they visit clubs even if they are supposed to be working.

He said that only the second kind should be banned from nightclubs.

Emmanuel also drew a comparison between lawmen who go to posh nightclubs and generals who play golf.

"If (the authorities) are insisting that the police lead modest lifestyles, then who is checking on the generals who play golf?" Emmanuel asked. "That is an expensive game."

Villareal also pointed out yesterday that going to beerhouses can be crucial in solving a case.

He said that policemen who hang out in clubs sometimes get tips from people there who may be familiar with criminal elements.

"Sometimes we get to talk with informers or assets there and they give us information," he said. "This is why it is sometimes vital for us to just hang out in clubs."

On Monday, PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane called on his men to refrain from going to nightclubs and girlie bars.

That night, police officials started making the rounds of nightclubs, conducting spot checks on the patrons.

The policy came about after President Macapagal-Arroyo got upset upon hearing the report that a group of PNP officials had been robbed right inside a classy nightspot on Quezon Avenue.

Police officials denied such a robbery took place.

Internet kidnap plea takes a twist

MAUREEN Elizabeth Pizzaro

FOR ABOUT two weeks now, the picture of 19-year-old Maureen Elizabeth Pizzaro and the story of her alleged abduction have been circulating on the Internet.

As a consequence, the e-mail purportedly sent by her brother Kenneth (k7v7iloco@yahoo.com) generated much sympathy from people as far as the United States and Europe.

But as concern for Maureen grew, here comes a twist: the mother of her alleged kidnapper is saying that she had actually eloped.

Kenneth's appeal began with a warning: "May this e-mail open your eyes to the new modus operandi of abducting a person, that even in crowded places you may be abducted silently."

According to the e-mail, Maureen "was abducted last September 7 around 7:30 p.m. at the Hidalgo Exit of Quiapo Underpass."

The woman, her sister Janice and her mother had just come from hearing mass at the Quiapo Church and were on their way home to 738 San Diego St., Sampaloc, Manila.

According to the e-mail, Maureen just disappeared from the crowd.

Yesterday, the woman was "released" by her "abductor."

Now it is the family of the alleged abductor, Rovic Aromin, 27, who is crying foul over the kidnap story.

Vilma, mother of Rovic and proprietor of Aromin Silvershop in Baguio City, said her son and Maureen had actually eloped.

She decried reports that tagged her son as Maureen's kidnapper.

According to Vilma, Rovic and Maureen met almost a month ago through the Internet.

On Sept. 7, Rovic went to Manila with two of Maureen's younger sisters, as one of them was to be interviewed for a job as a stewardess.

On Sept. 8, Rovic and Maureen were together all day, Aromin said. The two later apparently eloped and stayed in their ancestral house in Naguilian, La Union.

On Sept. 14, the two came up to Baguio and Maureen was introduced to Vilma. It was only then that they learned of Maureen's "kidnapping."

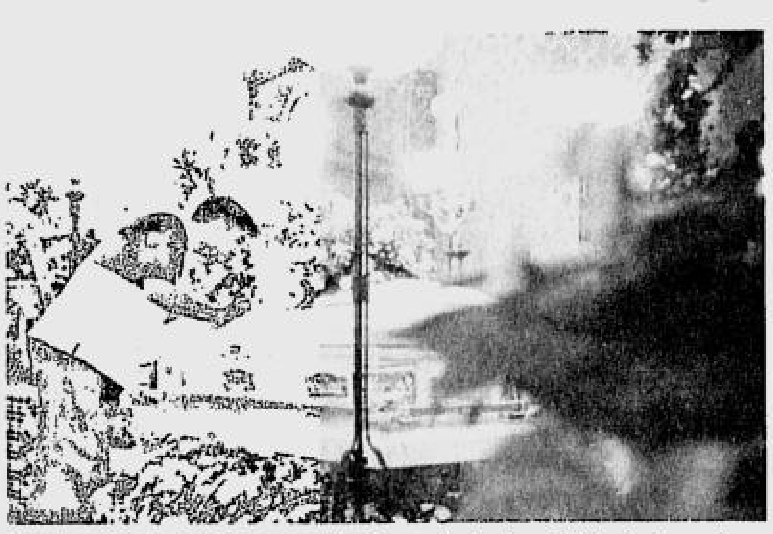
The next day, Maureen filed an affidavit that she "voluntarily joined Rovic... and I was not forced, coerced, threatened nor intimidated whatsoever."

Aromin said they were supposed to even go to Manila for a *pamanhikan* last Sept. 17.

Now, Vilma is saying she might just sue those who have been spreading stories that they abducted Maureen. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

She had a beautiful mind—Sumulong

By Luige del Puerto



AN UNIDENTIFIED mourner looks at the body of Michelle Sumulong at the Marian Memorial Chapels in Antipolo City.

SHE WAS not suicidal but 'she was beyond control.

That was how Rep. Vic Sumulong described his wife, Michelle, who succumbed to a gunshot wound in the head Thursday in their home in Barangay San Roque, Antipolo City.

"She was sick with paranoid schizophrenia," the congressman told the INQUIRER at Michelle's wake at the Marian Memorial Chapels in Marikina City.

He recalled the movie "A Beautiful Mind," which was about mathematician John Nash who had illusions of people.

"*Parang ganun ang mayroon siya* (She had something like that)," Sumulong said.

The solon related Michelle "was seeing robbers and ghosts and was hearing things."

That was why she brought a .22-caliber pistol a year ago.

"I hid it from her, only to find out she brought a bigger one," he said, referring to the 9-mm pistol that killed her.

Sumulong said Michelle was not suicidal and what happened Thursday morning was the first time she hurt herself.

Charles Jalandoni, Michelle's brother who flew in yesterday from Iloilo City, confirmed his sister's illness.

Apparently to dispel speculation that Sumulong had anything to do with her death, Jalandoni said the solon was the "best father and husband."

They had three children aged 14, 10 and 8.

Antipolo City Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan, who condoled with Sumulong, said Michelle's condition deteriorated when the congressman decided to run in 2001. "Vic told me that decision upset her so much," he said.

The couple sought help from doctors at the Makati Medical Center, St. Luke's Hospital and the UERM Hospital in Manila.

At one time, Michelle was taking up to 14 pills a day, Sumulong said. Lately, however, her condition got worse, he added.

She had not slept on Tuesday and Wednesday, the congressman said.

On Thursday, they had an argument. "I wanted her to go back to the hospital, but she insisted that she was never going back to the asylum."

Sumulong has told his children to grieve because their mother had done nothing wrong.

"I told my kids that their mother had committed no sin. And if she was able to do what she did, it was only because it was beyond her control," he said.

The Sumulongs will cremate Michelle's body on Sunday.

The police have dismissed foul play saying Michelle could have either committed suicide or had accidentally shot herself.

METROBRIEFS

Security check

POLICE and bank officials are set to meet anew to map out measures that would bolster security and foil future robberies. Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, National Capital Region Police District Office chief, yesterday said that he and other ranking police officials, would meet with bank managers and their security officials to come up with a comprehensive alarm and response system. "The next meeting will focus on amending the rules of engagement signed earlier in view of the recent spate of bank robberies," Velasco said. He said that at present, it is the policy of banks not to engage the robbers inside their establishments to avoid human casualties. He added that bank officials would let the robbers get away with the loot as long as nobody gets hurt. He said that while the policy is okay with the banks, it is not okay with the police. "When robbers get the money and run away with it, they become emboldened to recruit more people, buy more firearms and plan more robberies," Velasco said. *Tina Santos*

Mob mauls robbers

BUS PASSENGERS yesterday turned into an ugly mob after an armed couple tried to rob them in Quezon City. Rosalino Mijares, 39, and his live-in partner Anna Lacsamana, 30, both of Batasan Hills, Quezon City, were turned over to the police only after the mob had had their way with the suspects. Police said that when the couple robbed the passengers of a Fairview-bound Winstar Bus at around 5:30 a.m. yesterday, bus conductor Victoriano Valdez resisted, prompting Mijares to pull the trigger. When the gun failed to go off, the conductor and the passengers ganged up on the suspects. *Tina Santos*

Models robbed, pawed

THREE armed men yesterday robbed three fashion models early yesterday morning in Quezon City.

One of the suspects even molested one of the victims, said P01 Harold Aaron Melgar of the Central Police District.

The models—a 22-year-old male and two women, aged 17 and 25—told police that they were robbed on their way to a convenience store on Alley 2, Project 6.

The three suspects on board a Honda Civic (PJU 365), blocked the victims' path at 5:45 a.m. yesterday.

At gunpoint, the suspects took their cash and valuables worth P300,000. One of the suspects then mashed the pretty 25-year-old model.

The woman told police that the suspect's companions had to drag the masher away before they escaped.

The victims claimed that they are all working as ramp models at The Fort in Makati. *Tina Santos*

School kids foil robbery

By Luige del Puerto

ELEMENTARY schoolchildren yesterday helped catch a robber who pretended to be their teacher's brother in Marikina City.

The police said Joey Santos of San Mateo, Rizal introduced himself as the brother of Liberty Cardosa, a teacher at the Sto. Niño Elementary School.

After the introduction, Santos went to Cardosa's room and took the teacher's Nokia 3310 mobile phone, police said.

The children became suspicious because Cardosa was not inside her room.

They then decided to follow Santos around and finally asked for help from a group of construction workers.

The construction workers stopped Santos and tried to verify his identity.

The commotion caught the attention of barangay watchmen who were passing by.

When checked, Santos yielded a dagger and some P80, which school authorities said belonged to the school clinic.

The suspect denied the accusation.

Shabu chemicals found in Tondo warehouse

By Leila Salaverria and Alcuin Papa

ONE HUNDRED and thirty boxes of a chemical used in the manufacture of shabu yesterday were discovered in a Tondo warehouse belonging to a Chinese-Filipino man.

Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation's Anti-Drug Task Force, the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDS-SOTF), and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency found that the boxes each contained 12 tin cans of thionyl hydrochloride.

In all, there are 1,572 cans of the chemical, according to lawyer Ruel Lasala of the NBI.

The seized stock of Thionyl hydrochloride, when mixed with ephedrine, could produce 1,000 kilos of shabu worth approximately P1.5 billion, Lasala said.

The chemical is considered a "controlled substance," which means its entry is strictly monitored.

The NBI official said the confiscated boxes were labeled "bamboo shoot fresh meat."

Lasala said the two-story warehouse on San Pedro Street in Tondo was owned by a Joselito Ang and that the chemicals found there had come from mainland China.

Police said Ang came to the country in August, bringing with him the boxes.

According to the national police, Ang had already left the country.

After Manila Judge Enrico Lanzanas issued a search warrant, NBI and PDEA agents stormed the warehouse at around 1 p.m.

Authorities took into custody Consuelo Estrada, warehouse caretaker.

Lasala said that Estrada had met Ang several times and could identify him if she sees him again.

He also said that a confidential informer revealed to the authorities the presence of the shabu chemicals in Tondo.

Lasala said the house had been under surveillance for three weeks before the lawmen obtained a warrant and conducted the raid.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco and Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina later inspected the chemicals found in the warehouse.

Frame-up victim harassed by cops

REMEMBER Ricardo Romualdo, 34, owner of a small auto repair shop in Barangay Claro, Project 3, Quezon City, who's an alleged victim of police frameup? He was featured in this space Sept. 11.

Romualdo was watching TV in his room at 45-A Aguho St. in the afternoon of Sept. 8 when cops barged in and dragged him out.

The cops searched his room for illegal drugs, but couldn't find any. So they tried to put something into his pocket, but Romualdo resisted.

* * *

One of the cops shot him in the back.

Romualdo is now confined at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, a bullet still lodged in his back.

To rub salt on his wound, he is handcuffed to his bed and guarded by a policeman.

* * *

According to the policemen who arrested him, Romualdo was caught in a buy-bust operation. "Buy-bust" is a police term for entrapment.

This means, if we buy the cops' version, Romualdo was a drug pusher.

But his neighbors and officials in his barangay attest to Romualdo's innocence. They say that he is a law-abiding citizen. Romualdo, they say, was too busy in his

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

work as electrician-mechanic in his shop to do something else.

* * *

It was a case of mistaken identity, Romualdo's neighbors and barangay officials told my staff at "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" program.

The cops apparently got the wrong address. Somebody must have tipped off Station 9 that a "pot session" was going on at apartment No. 45 on Aguho. But there are seven doors in that apartment with the same address: 45, 45-A, 45-B, C, D, E, and F.

Even if indeed a pot session was going on in one of the apartment units, the cops could not just barge in without a search warrant.

* * *

So, in order to cover up their mistake, the cops are trying to right a wrong with another wrong. They invented the "buy-bust" story, that one of them pretended to buy a sachet of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) from Romualdo and when the deal was done, they pounced on him.

The "buy-bust" story would justify their barging into Romualdo's house without a search warrant. Any other story and the cops would be in hot water.

But if they think they're out of hot water because of the buy-bust story, they have another think coming.

* * *

My instincts as a former police reporter tell me that the buy-bust story is a cock-and-bull story.

And this columnist is out to prove this by providing Romualdo with all the best legal help he could find.

Right now, Romualdo has found one in the person of Tomas del Castillo. Del Castillo is my lawyer at the INQUIRER who has ably defended me against numerous libel suits.

He has volunteered his services for free.

The cops will have to find lawyers who can match Del Castillo's expertise in criminal law.

* * *

If my instincts prove me right, and the courts will agree with me, those cops will probably be the first to be sent to the lethal injection under the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Under that law, which took effect only recently, law enforcers who "plant" drugs on innocent citizens will be penalized with death by lethal injection.

Let's hope those cops will be found guilty of framing an innocent man. Other policemen will now think twice before filing false charges against innocent civilians.

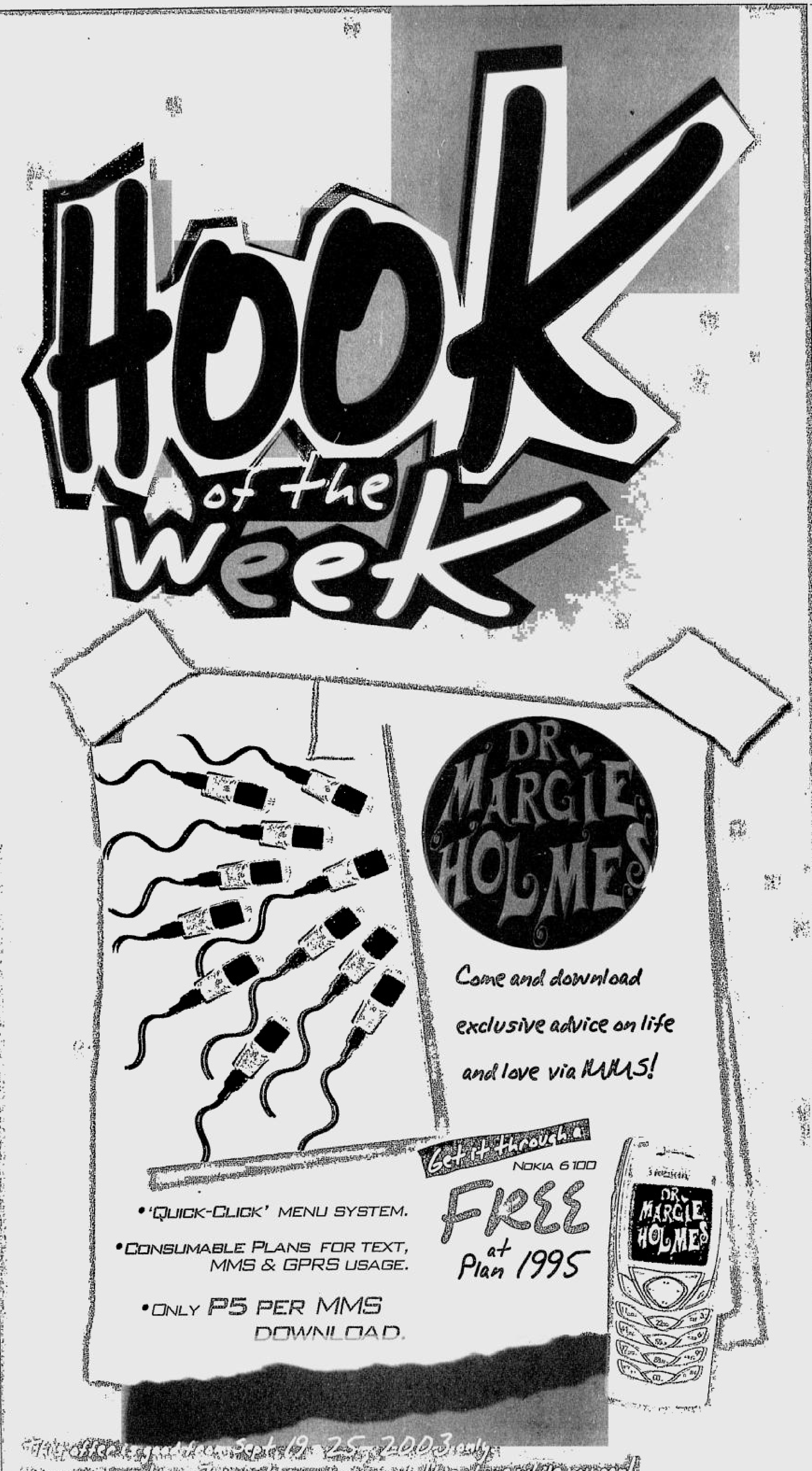
* * *

What are the pieces of evidence those cops have on the electrician-mechanic? One plastic sachet containing 0.25 grams of white crystalline powder said to be shabu; and a P500 bill.

To an anti-narcotics policeman, a sachet of shabu is not hard to come by.

In my experience as a reporter who covered the crime scene for many years, anti-narcotics cops would always have dried marijuana leaves and other banned substance with them when they are sent to arrest a suspected drug pusher. If the suspect didn't have any banned substance in his person, the "narc" would see to it that he had so they could haul him off to the station.

I'm sure that was what happened to Romualdo: Since the raiders couldn't find shabu in his room and on his person, they "planted" one on him.



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G/F Universal Records Bldg, 1497 Quezon Ave., Quezon City

CUBAO WIRELESS CENTER
Stall # 63 & 64 Fiesta Carnival, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City

ROBINSONS NOVALICHES WIRELESS CENTER
3rd Level Robinsons Place Novaliches, Quirino Highway, Quezon City

SM NORTH EDSA WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Cyberzone Mall, Carpark Extension, SM North EDSA, Quezon City

ROBINSONS GALLERIA WIRELESS CENTER
Level 3 Robinsons Galleria, EDSA cor. Ortigas, Quezon City

STA. LUCIA WIRELESS CENTER
Level 3, Phase 3, Sta Lucia Grand Mall, Marcos Highway, Cainta, Rizal

VIRRAMALL WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Virra Mall Shopping Center, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

SM MEGAMALL WIRELESS CENTER
4/F Cyberzone Area, SM Megamall Bldg B, Mandaluyong City

PODIUM WIRELESS CENTER
5th Level, The Podium, ADB Avenue Ortigas Center

MANILA EAST WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Manila East Arcade Bldg., Manila East Road, Taytay, Rizal

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BINONDO WIRELESS CENTER
572-574 Quintin Paredes, Binondo, Manila

SM MANILA WIRELESS CENTER
Level 4 SM Manila, Concepcion St., Cor. Arroceros & San Marcelino St., Manila

FESTIVAL MALL WIRELESS CENTER
Level 4 Center Hall Festival Supermall, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa

SMART TOWER WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Smart Tower, 6799 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

SM BICUTAN WIRELESS CENTER
2nd level Annex B Doña Soledad Avenue cor. West Service Road Bicutan, Parañaque City

SM SOUTH MALL WIRELESS CENTER
2nd Level Cyberzone Area SM Southmall, Alabang Zapote Rd., Pamplona, Las Piñas

GREENBELT WIRELESS CENTER
2/F Fairmart, Greenbelt, Makati City

ATC WIRELESS CENTER
2nd Floor New Wing Alabang Town Center, Ayala Alabang

NORTH LUZON WIRELESS CENTERS

BAGUIO WIRELESS CENTER
Banco de Oro bldg., Upper Session Road Baguio City, 2600

BAGUIO - ABANAO SQUARE
2/F Abanao Square, Abanao cor. Zandueta Sts., Baguio City, 2600

BAGUIO - JOHN HAY
Mile Hi Camp John Hay, Baguio City, 2600

BAYOMBONG WIRELESS CENTER
Garingan Bldg., National Road, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, 3700

DAGUPAN WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Insular Life Bldg., Arellano St.,Dagupan City

ILAGAN WIRELESS CENTER
G/F ZARA Bldg., 120 Rizal St. Centro, Ilagan, Isabela

LAOAG WIRELESS CENTER
Conching Building (beside LBC Bank) Rizal St., Laoag City

SF LA UNION WIRELESS CENTER
CKC Arcade, Quezon Avenue, San Fernando, La Union (Fronting Pillars")

SANTIAGO WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Almazan Bldg., Nat'l Highway cor. Luna St., Santiago City

TUGUEGARAO WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Dwo Bldg., College Ave cor. Burgos Street, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan

URDANETA WIRELESS CENTER
Alexander St., Urdaneta City, Pangasinan

VIGAN WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Plaza Maestro Building, Florentino Street, Vigan City

CENTRAL LUZON WIRELESS CENTERS

ANGELES NEPO MALL
3rd Level, Nepo Mall Teresa Avenue cor. St. Joseph St., Angeles City

BALANGA WIRELESS CENTER
2/F Rural Bank of Pilar Bldg., J.P Rizal St., Balanga, Bataan

BALIUAG WIRELESS CENTER
De Leon Bldg., Cagayan Valley Road, Poblacion, Baliuag Bulacan

CABANATUAN WIRELESS CENTER
Ground Level NE Pacific Mall, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City

MALOLOS WIRELESS CENTER
G/F FC Bldg., Sumapang Matanda, McArthur Hi-way, Malolos, Bulacan

OLONGAPO WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Ocampo Bldg., #950 Rizal Ave East Tapinac, Olongapo City

ROBINSONS PAMPANGA WIRELESS CENTER
2nd Level, Robinson's Starmills - Pampanga OG Road, City of San Fernando, Pampanga

TARLAC WIRELESS CENTER
1030-a Al's Bldg Annex, McArthur Hi-way, San Nicolas, Tarlac

SOUTH LUZON WIRELESS CENTER

BATANGAS CITY (BATANGAS)
G/F Insular Life Bldg (in front of Batangas University), Hilltop, Batangas City

CALAMBA (LAGUNA)
Anderson Bldg. II, Parian, Calamba, Laguna

CALAPAN (ORIENTAL MINDORO)
New Era bldg., J.P Rizal St., Calapan, Oriental Mindoro

DAET (CAMARINES NORTE)
G/F Alegre Bldg., J. Lukban St., Daet, Camarines Norte

IMUS (ROBINSON'S CAVITE)
Level 4, Robinson's Place, Aguinaldo Hi-way Imus, Cavite

LEGAZPI (ALBAY)
G/F D. Yanzon Bldg., Lapu-Lapu St.,Legazpi City, Albay

LIPA (BATANGAS)
G/F Guadalupe Plaza bldg., M.K. Lina St., Lipa City Batangas 4217

LUCENA (QUEZON)
173 Granja St., Lucena City

NAGA (CAMARINES SUR)
#41 Panganiban Drive cor. Isarog St.,Naga City

PINAMALAYAN (ORIENTAL MINDORO)
G/F Tri Star Bldg., Francisco St., Pinamalayan Oriental Mindoro

PUERTO PRINCESA (PALAWAN)
Door 1 2/F Basa Bldg., National Highway San Pedro, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

SAN JOSE (OCCIDENTAL MINDORO)
J & S Bldg., Liboro St. San Jose Occidental Mindoro 5100

SAN PABLO (LAGUNA)
Choling Bldg., M. Basa St., cor P. Burgos St.,San Pablo City 4000

TAGAYTAY(CAVITE)
OLIVAREZ PLAZA, Emilio Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City

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BORACAY WIRELESS CENTER
Balabag, Boracay Island Malay, Aklan, Besides Land Bank

SM ILOILO WIRELESS CENTER
Lower Grnd Flr. SM City, Benigno Aquino Drive, Mandurriao, Iloilo City

ROBINSON'S ILOILO WIRELESS CENTER
3rd Floor Robinson' Place, Ledesma St.,Iloilo City

GAISANO ROXAS WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Gaisano City, Arnaldo Blvd Roxas City

BACOLOD WIRELESS CENTER
G/F EL Court, 1ST Lacson St., Bacolod City

ROBINSONS BACOLOD
ROBINSONS PLACE Level 2 South Arcade, Lacson Mandalagan, Bacolod

CADIZ WIRELESS CENTER
Punta Cabahug Street, Cadiz City,Negros Occ.

KABANKALAN WIRELESS CENTER
NZ Bldg., Km. 91, National Highway, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental

SAN CARLOS WIRELESS CENTER
Eddie Tan Yu Bldg., S. Carmona St., San Carlos City, Negros Occ.

CEBU WIRELESS CENTER
G/F JRG Bldg., Mango Avenue, Cebu City

DUMAGUETE WIRELESS CENTER
Door 2 Milagros Bldg., Perdices St., Dumaguete City

BOGO, CEBU WIRELESS CENTER
San Vicente St., Bogo, Cebu City

SM CEBU WIRELESS CENTER
2 Level SM City, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

TAGBILARAN WIRELESS CENTER
New Capitol Bldg., Marapao St.,Tagbilaran City

TACLOBAN WIRELESS CENTER
ERC Bldg, Cor. Justice & Del Pilar Sts.,Tacloban City

CALBAYOG WIRELESS CENTER
G/F B & L Bldg., Magsaysay Blvd., Calbayog City, Samar

CATBALOGAN WIRELESS CENTER
162 Rizal Avenue, Catbalogan, Samar

ORMOC WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Sixto Pongos Bldg., Aviles St.,Ormoc City

MINDANAO WIRELESS CENTERS

BUTUAN WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Ramcor Building, P. Burgos St., Butuan City 8600

CAGAYAN DE ORO WIRELESS CENTER
Entrance 2,'Limketkai Center, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City

SM CAGAYAN DE ORO WIRELESS CENTER
3rd Level SM City, Cagayan de Oro, Upper Carmen Cagayan de Oro City

ILIGAN WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Garcia Building, Quezon Avenue Extension, Iligan City

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G/F Guerra Bldg., Cor Vasquez, Rizal St.,Surigao City

VALENCIA WIRELESS CENTER
Tamay Lang Bldg., G. Lavina Avenue (Fronting Desmark) Valencia Bukidnon

SM DAVAO WIRELESS CENTER
SM City Davao, 3rd Level Quimpo Blvd., Ecoland Matina, Davao City

DAVAO LANDCO WIRELESS CENTER
G/F LANDCO-PDCP Corporate Center Pryce Business Park, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City

DAVAO GAISANO WIRELESS CENTER
Gaisano Mall of Davao, 3rd level, J.P. Laurel Avenue, Bajada, Davao City

DIGOS WIRELESS CENTER
2458 Roxas Extension Zone II Digos, Davao Del Sur 8002

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G/F RD Bldg., Ireneo Santiago Blvd. General Santos City

KORONADAL WIRELESS CENTER
SMRAA Building, Alunan Avenue, Koronadal, South Cotabato

KIDAPAWAN WIRELESS CENTER
2/F KHAS Realty Corporation, Quezon Blvd. Kidapawan City

DIPOLOG WIRELESS CENTER
Osmeña cor. Echavez St., Dipolog City

OZAMIS WIRELESS CENTER
G/F Insular Life Bldg., Don Anselmo Bernard Ave., Corner Jose Abad Santos, Ozamis City,Misamis Occidental

PAGADIAN WIRELESS CENTER
Edificio Del Rey, Bonifacio st., cor Jamisola St Pagadian City

TAWI-TAWI WIRELESS CENTER
2/F Bing-inghio bldg., Datu Halun St., cor Sukuran St., Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

ZAMBOANGA WIRELESS CENTER
#149 G/F, Fidela Bldg (La Vina Hotel), Zamboanga City

TSI BRANCHES

NCR

Festival Mall
Space 3082, 3rd Level Festival Mall, Alabang, Muntinlupa

Harrison Plaza
2/F Harrison Plaza Shopping Center, A. Mabini cor. Adriatico St. Malate Manila (in front of Snapshot)

Robinsons Galleria
3rd Level Madison Ave. Robinsons Galleria Extension

Robinsons Place Manila
Level 3, Pedro Gil Wing, Robinsons Place Manila, Malate

Shangri La
Level 1 Shangri-la Mall, Shaw Blvd.

Shopwise Libis
G/F Shopwise Supermarket Libis, Quezon City

SM Centerpoint
3/L SM Centerpoint Ramon Magsaysay cor. Araneta Avenue, Sta Mesa

SM City Bacoor
Lower Ground, SM Bacoor Rotonda, Bacoor, Cavite

SM Sucat
3/F SM Sucat Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City

SM North EDSA
G/F SM Car Park SM City North Edsa, Pag-asa 1, Quezon City

SM Megamall
5L Mega A, SM Megamall, Edsa, Mandaluyong

SM City Fairview
Stall 62 Lower Ground Regalado Ave., Quirino Hiway, Fairview

Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall
2/F Bridgeway Sta. Lucia East Grandmall Cainta, Rizal(in front of Scents & Fragrance)

Taft Central Exchange
G/F near LRT Entrance Gil Puyat cor Taft Ave Pasay City

Tutuban Mall
22/F Tutuban Mall
Zabarte Town Center Imus
G/F Zabarte Town Center

LUZON

Imus
2th Level, Robinson's Place, Imus, Cavite

Sta Rosa
3rd Level Robinson's Place Brg Tagapo, National hi-way Sta Rosa Laguna

Cabanatuan
Door 2 Sta Rina Bldg Maharlika Hi-way Cabanatuan City

Olongapo
G/F Ocampo Bldg., 900 Ave. East Tapinac, Olongapo City

SM Pampanga
Stale 151, SM City Pampanga, Mexico Olongapo Gapan Road, San Fernando City

Tarlac
Metrotown Extension Ctr 3F Metrotown Mall Mc Arthur hi-way, Tarlac City

VISAYAS

SM City Iloilo
LGF SM City, Benigno Aquino Drive, Mandurriao, Iloilo City

SM City Cebu
3rd Level SM City North Reclamation Area,Cebu City

MINDANAO

SM Davao
3rd Level SM City Ecoland Davao City

Davao Dasi
Dasi Bldg., JP Laurel, Davao City

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SPORTS

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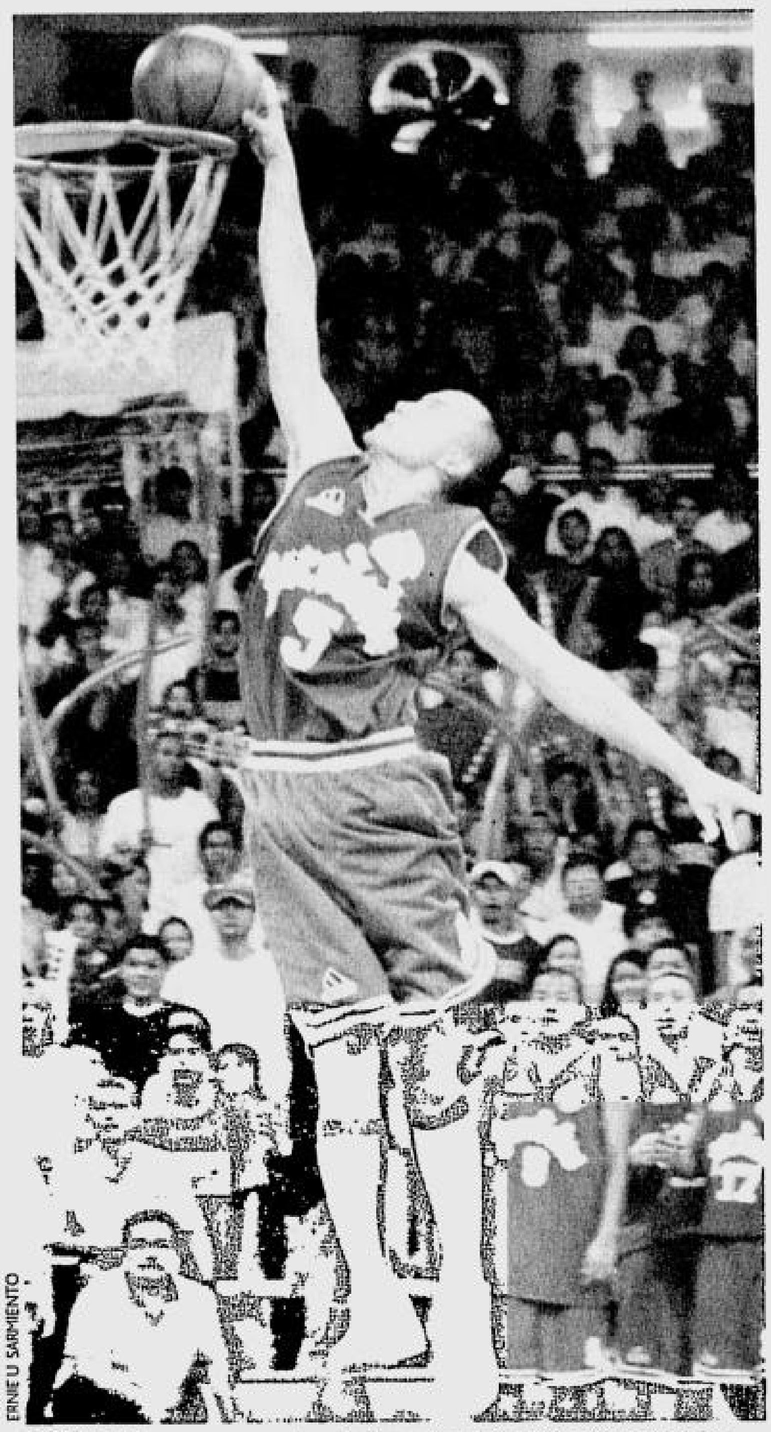

ERNIE U SARMIENTO

NICOLE Uy scores on a slam during a fiery San Sebastian offensive.

Stags bounce back, force rubber match

GAME WEDNESDAY *(Rizal Coliseum)*
4 p.m.—Letran vs SSC-R (Game 3, Finals)

By June Navarro

SAN Sebastian bounced back with a convincing 85-77 victory over Letran last night to force a winner-take-all showdown for the 79th NCAA basketball crown at the Rizal Coliseum.

Chris Baluyot nailed a breakaway three-pointer to highlight a 14-6 fiery windup by the Stags from 71 all and send the best-of-three series to a rubber match on Wednesday.

Baluyot's triple gave the Stags a comfortable 78-73 advantage with 1:31 remaining as the Stags recovered from an 89-73 beating they took in Game 1 Wednesday.

``Letran was very physical and some of the calls went the Knights' way. But I told the boys not to dwell on it and just stay focused," said coach Turo Valenzona.

Valenzona complained of the rough plays on reigning MVP Leomar Najorda and the towering Clark Moore inside the paint.

But Najorda endured the rugged stuff and combined with Ren Vicente and Baluyot as the Stags dropped a 12-1 bomb to spring back from seven points down halfway in the fourth period and tie it at 71-71.

Vicente's three-point play off Dale Santos pushed the Stags in front, 74-71, and after Ronjay Enrile cut the lead with a daredevil drive, Baluyot unloaded his crucial three-pointer and Victor Maneclang completed a fastbreak play for 80-73 with 55 seconds left.

Najorda topscored with 20 points while Baluyot and Vicente added 19 and 15 apiece for the Stags, who are seeking a three-peat and an eighth title in the last 10 years.

The Stags raced to an early 21-13 lead behind Baluyot and Najorda, but Ronjay Enrile racked up nine straight points to level the count, 38-38, at halftime.

Earlier, the San Beda Cubs captured the juniors championship with a 74-70 win over the Mapua Robins.

First Game (Jrs)

SBC 74—Menor 23, Martinez 22, Tecson 12, Taganas 9, Paredes 6, Castillo 2, Tirona 0, Ferrer 0, Talamayan 0.

MAPUA 70—Galinato 18, Tabaquero 15, Del Rosario 13, Aguilar 12, Marquez 6, Ocampo 6, Penafiel 0, Parcon 0.

Quarters: 11-17, 35-29, 56-50, 74-70

Second Game (Srs)

SSC-R 85—Najorda 20, Baluyot 19, Vicente 15, Moore 10, Gonzales 8, Maneclang 5, Uy 5, Legarde 2, Aguilar 1, Rebuya 0.

LETRAN 77—Enrile 22, Rodriguez 11, Aban 10, Bautista 9, Aldave 7, Reyes 6, Pinera 5, Anabo 4, Santos 3, Fedelicio 0, Balneg 0, Realista 0.

Quarters: 21-13, 38-38, 59-61, 85-77

Clutario assured of silver

FILIPINA Liza Clutario routed Patricia Schwarz of Germany, 257-164, Thursday night to grab the pole position in the stepladder finals of the ladies' masters event in the World Tenpin Bowling Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The opening match on Saturday will pit Lee Uen Yok against Diandra Hyman in a single-game battle. The winner will then challenge Clutario for the crown.

Another Filipina, Liza del Rosario, bowed to Hyman in the position round.

"I had it in my mind to shoot a high game in the position round," said Clutario, who set a meet record of 3,573—21 pinfalls better than the old mark set by Ann Maree Putney of Australia in 1997.

Clutario was part of the victorious Philippine women's trios team and took the bronze medal in the women's all-events.

Asian athletics under way; four golds at stake

By Roy Luarca

FOUR gold medals will be up for grabs following a colorful two-hour ceremony that will usher in the 15th Asian Athletics Association championships this afternoon at the Rizal track and field stadium.

Powerhouse China is expected to stamp its class early as it parades Asian Games champions Huang Qiuyan and Sun Yingjie in the triple jump and women's 10,000-meter finals, respectively.

Also to be contested are the golds in the men's discus throw, where Qatari Rashid Shafi Al Dosari is favored, and the women's shot put, where South Korean Lee Mi-young holds the meet record of 19.15 meters.

Other events scheduled are the first two heats in the 100-m dash for men and women, the first four events in women's heptathlon—110m hurdles, high jump, shot put and 200m—the opening heats in the men's and women's 100-m hurdles, the qualifying heats in the 1,500-m and 4x400-m relay for both men and women and the first round of the 400m.

Reigning Southeast Asian Games champion Christabel Martes, Flordeliza Cachero and Mercedita Manipol will open the Philippine campaign in the 10,000, where they have little chances of winning.

There are no Filipino bets in the triple jump, shot put and discus throw.

Other locals seeing action today are Alex Gabito and Arnold Villarube in the heats of the men's 100m and Chantal Balani, Leslie Cercado and Honeyjoy Ortalez in the women's 100m.

World Athletics Championship campaigners Eduardo Buenavista and Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito, the Philippines' top medal hopes, will see action in Day Two, which will feature 13 final events starting at 4 p.m.

15th Asian
Athletics
Championships

The 5-foot Buenavista, double-gold medalist in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games, will compete in the men's 10,000m while Gabito, who took a silver medal in the 2002 Asian Athletics Association championships in Colombo, Sri Lanka, will see action in the women's long jump.

Fans will be treated to a cultural presentation and field demonstration by about 6,000 students from Metro Manila before action in the four-day, 42-nation tourney starts.

Highlighting the program, choreographed and directed by Tony Fabella, are the Ati-Atihan tribal dance, the silent drill of cadets from the Philippine National Police Academy and cheering, taekwondo and rappelling exhibitions.

Heading the guests list are 3As president Shri Suresh Kalmadi, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, who will represent President Macapagal-Arroyo; Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit.

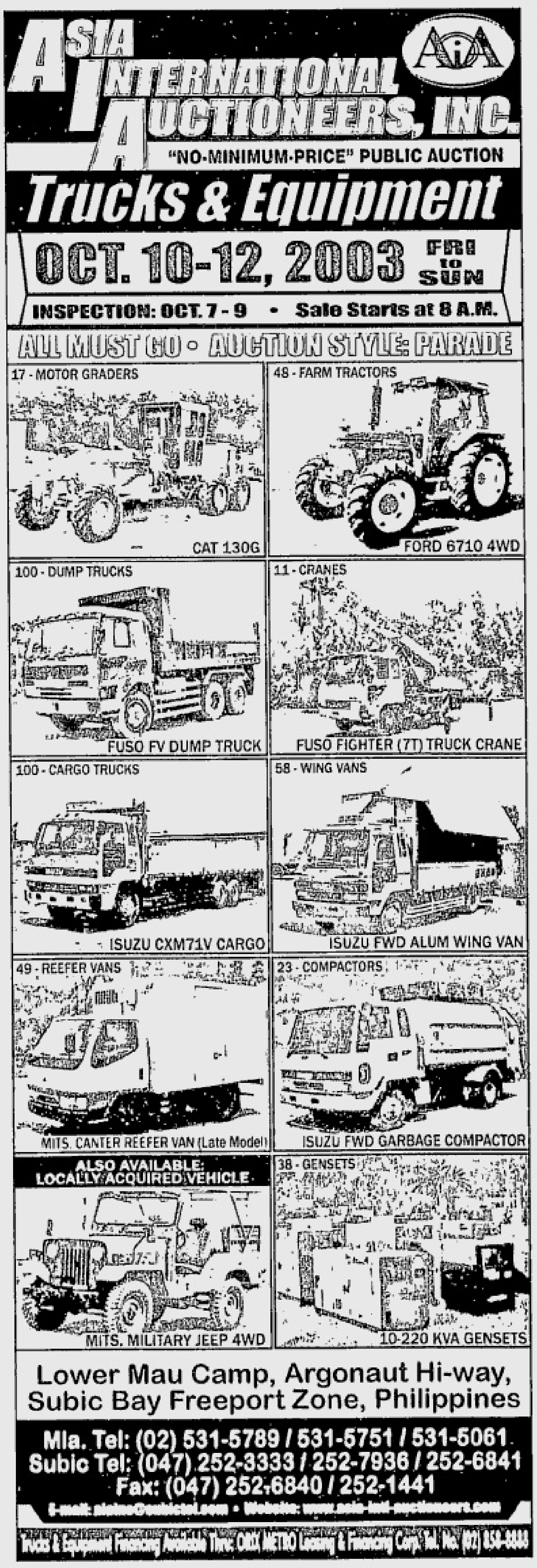
Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and athletics president Go Teng Kok will welcome more than 1,300 athletes, guests and officials to the country's biggest sportsfest in years.

China is fielding 76 bets, next only to Japan's 93 in the meet considered as the Athletics Olympics of Asia.

The Philippines will be represented by 50 athletes, who are bidding to use their performances as tickets to joining the RP delegation to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December.

Apart from Buenavista and Gabito, Go expects strong performances from long jumper Marestella Torres, Martes and 400-m specialist Ernie Candelario.

Meanwhile, South Korea was chosen to host the 16th Asian Athletics Association championships in 2005 during the 3As congress yesterday. Go, also the 3As vice president, said the city of Incheon got 15 votes against the 13 of Lebanon.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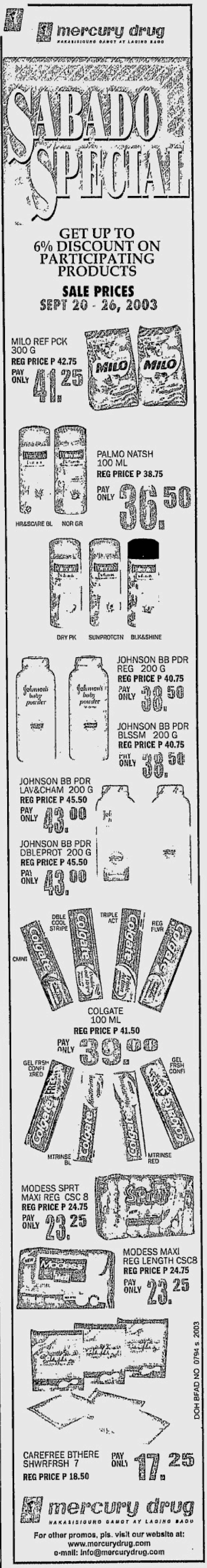
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Shell halts skid, turns back FedEx

GAME TODAY (*Malolos, Bulacan*)
5 p.m—San Miguel vs Sta. Lucia

By June Navarro

SHELL went to the surprisingly hot Tony de la Cruz as the Turbochargers repulsed the FedEx Express, 91-88, last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

De la Cruz finished with a game-high 28 points, drilling in his last eight in a searing 12-0 run that carried the Turbochargers from nine points down.

The Turbochargers ended a two-game slide and improved to 2-2 while the Express lost for the third time in five games.

The Express seemed rattled by De la Cruz's heroics as they went scoreless throughout the Turbochargers' blazing comeback.

Import Damien Cantrell scored on an off-balanced shot with no time left as Talk 'N Text nipped Purefoods, 82-80, in the second game. It was the Phone Pals' fourth win in five games.

Although Terrence Shannon scattered 27 points for FedEx, he began to fire blanks in a frantic bid to turn things around.

"It was a bigtime struggle but a good win for a young team like us," said Shell coach Perry Ronquillo, who got double-double performances from import Sedric Webber and De la Cruz.

Ronquillo was far from satisfied despite the win: "We missed several easy layups and a lot of foul shots. If you ask me, we should not have won the game at all."

Ferriols registered 12 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Scores:

SHELL 91—De la Cruz 28, Webber 23, Singson 12, Calagulo 9, Laure 8, Hrabak 8, Tubid 2, Bajar 1, Marzan 0, Bacani 0, Jackson 0.

FEDEX 88—Shannon 27, Meneses 18, Ferriols 12, Codinera 7, Rodriguez 6, Arboleda 6, Origuerra 4, Billones 2, Ejercito 2, Yap 2, Ritualo 1, De Ocampo 0, Bernardo 0.

Quarters: 18-21, 42-48, 64-72, 91-88.

Second Game

TALK N TEXT 82—Cantrell 23, Taulava 16, Fran 13, Carey 12, Ravena 9, Pablo 7, Telan 2, Locsin 0, Manalo 0, Belano 0.

PUREFOODS 80—Arceneaux 33, Evangelista 12, Selgle 10, Raymundo 8, Castillo 7, Patrimonio 6, Mamaril 2, Santos 2, Magtulis 0, Fernandez 0, Demape 0.

Quarters: 30-16, 42-32, 65-55, 82-80.

UE protest upheld; Ateneo-La Salle Final 4 duel set

By Dennis U. Eroa

IT WILL be a playoff between University of the East and Far Eastern for the second twice-to-beat advantage and an Ateneo-La Salle duel in the Final Four.

These crucial pairings emerged yesterday after the UAAP board upheld UE's protest that there was no time left when JunJun Cabatu hit the three-pointer that the referees counted and turned La Salle a 65-64 winner of their match Thursday.

"We abide by the decision of the board and the recommendation of the technical committee," said Danny Jose, La Salle's representative to the board.

As a result of the decision forged during an emergency meeting at the Loyola Gym, the Warriors tied Ateneo and FEU for first place with an 11-3 slate, but the Eagles went on to clinch the No. 1 slot due to a higher quotient.

UE and FEU will collide in a playoff tomorrow with the winner taking the number two position and the second twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four, which will start Sept. 25 at the Araneta Coliseum.

With the loss, four-time champion La Salle, as fourth in the eliminations, was left with no other recourse but to face Ateneo in the Final Four, where the Archers need to win twice to reach the finals.

And the Archers have yet to beat the Eagles this season, losing 82-68 and 98-89 in the eliminations.

UAAP president Jose Capistrano Jr. of host Ateneo said the board appreciated La Salle's gesture to abide by the decision.

Francis Diaz of UP, technical committee head, said they reviewed the tapes given by Studio 23 and another video taken from a reversed angle, which showed that Cabatu's shot was made after the buzzer had sounded.

Capistrano explained that the basis for reversing the result was a ground rule made at the start of the 2003 season calling for the use of electronic devices, in this case video materials, to decide buzzer-beating shots made at the end of the first half and second half of each game, and for shots that could either be a two-pointer or a triple.

For failing to follow the ground rules on the game-ending shots, the three referees of the match were banned for the rest of the season.

Commissioner Joe Lipa said the referees did not go into a huddle before making a decision, they did not refer to the TV monitor and failed to consult the commissioner and table officials.

WITH only a fraction of a second left and the ball still in his hands, Junjun Cabatu fails to beat the game clock in last Thursday's La Salle-UE match in the UAAP. PHOTO BY RAUL ROA, UNIVERSITYBELT.COM

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 055

Lords of the Ring

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
☐ True / ☐ False: Muhammad Ali is the only man to be world heavyweight champion three times.

2 > 5 Pts.
Who's the only world heavyweight champion ever to retire undefeated?
- ☐ Joe Louis
- ☐ Rocky Marciano

3 > 7 Pts.
Who's the first Olympic heavyweight gold medalist to become world heavyweight champion?
- ☐ Joe Frazier
- ☐ Floyd Patterson
- ☐ Sonny Liston

4 > 10 Pts.
Who's the first light heavyweight to become world heavyweight king?
- ☐ Jimmy Ellis
- ☐ Michael Spinks
- ☐ Roy Jones Jr.

5 > 15 Pts.
Whose life was the subject of The Great White Hope, the 1968 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama that was later made into a movie of the same title?
- ☐ Jack Dempsey
- ☐ Jim Jeffries
- ☐ Jess Willard
- ☐ Jack Johnson

6 > 25 Pts.
In 1994 George Foreman knocked out Michael Moorer in 10 rounds, becoming the oldest heavyweight champion ever at what age?
- ☐ 41
- ☐ 43
- ☐ 45
- ☐ 47

7 > 30 Pts.
White man's burden: Who was the last white man to become world heavyweight crown?

ANSWERS/ A25

Judgment call isn't perfect

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHEN is a judgment call a judgment call?

I ask this again in lieu of the De La Salle-University of the East game on Thursday. In that game, Junjun Cabatu banged home a three-pointer that was judged good by the referees.

Judgment call at work. Again.

As a result, the shot gave De La Salle a 65-64 victory in the UAAP men's basketball tournament.

UE has protested the shot, claiming it was fired with no time left in the game. Meaning, the ball was in Cabatu's hands when time expired. If true, Cabatu's three-pointer was null and void from the start.

As I was writing this, the UAAP board was deliberating on UE's protest. Until and after a decision is made, De La Salle's victory stands. (I had finished this piece when I got the news about UE's protest getting upheld. See related story.)

It happens almost all the time that a shot fired in the endgame that is deemed the winning basket becomes controversial, the most common reason being that it was released when the game was supposed to have ended.

I wonder why this has been allowed to go on and on and on.

How many times have beautiful games been ruined in the name of judgment call?

I am not sure now, but I guess the NBA has adopted a rule to eliminate the ugly side of a judgment call, especially on crucial shots fired in the endgame. It now happens, I guess, that when there is a question as to whether the converted shot—a winning shot most especially—is released within the game clock or not, the referees withhold their decision to declare the shot either good or not pending a consultation with the game timekeeper. The referees also refer to the replay of the shot on the TV monitor to determine if the attempted shot was within the time frame of the game or not.

If my guess is right, I think that's fair enough.

I believe that should also be adopted not only by the UAAP but also by all other basketball tournaments hereabouts—if they haven't done that yet.

To be sure, though, there are beauties, too, in the rule of the judgment call. Like it's imperative that we have to trust the referees' calls in the early going of the game onward in order that the game would run its due course, without unnecessary interruptions mainly because a call is perceived to be bum.

A judgment call, by its very nature, is never perfect. It can be wrong but then, if it isn't that serious as to thoroughly impair the condition of the game, it should be let go. Otherwise, if we totally drop the judgment call and treat it as more of a liability than an asset, we could be courting trouble. It is always better that it be considered an integral part of the game. In golf, they call some "defects" of the competition as "rub of the green." For sure, there will be some imperfections committed or done somewhere, either by the player or the rulesman, but then charge it to "rub of the green." Otherwise, even petty things will ruin every game, if not every tournament.

In Philippine basketball today, the judgment call almost dominates the total outlook of the game. This has got to end. My view is, we must now remove that in the dying seconds of the game. Why, because it is that span of time when the game clock is given all the latitude to play its role to the hilt. In short, in this period, let the clock decide the outcome of a shot, not the referees' call. All that a referee has to do is, refrain from giving a ruling when there is doubt as to the status of the shot. In such a case, the final arbiter should be the game clock and not the referee's judgment call.

Judge and you shall be judged. The judgment call should end where the issue of time is at play.

In every human contest in these modern times, time is supreme over everything.

***

FASTBREAK. Martial arts buffs will be treated to 15 bouts of kickboxing today at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio. Organizer Alvin Aguilar said the 3rd Universal Reality Combat Championship will also showcase a stick fighting exhibition. World-class warriors Richie Lazaro and Fritz Rodriguez will clash in the mixed martial arts event. For more details, Maribel Dario said call Red Corner Gym at 8678059.

La Salle Bengals win, force UE-UST playoff

CENTER Paolo Abelardo and Kiel Flores sizzled as semifinalist La Salle-Zobel concluded its elimination campaign with a hard-earned 60-55 win over University of the East last Thursday in the UAAP junior basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Bengals finished with a third-best 8-4 win-loss card while sending the Pages to a do-or-die match for the last Final Four seat with the Santo Tomas Baby Tigers on Sunday.

Earlier, Santo Tomas downed ousted titleholder UP-Integrated School, 74-68, and tied UE with an even 6-6 slate. UP finished with a 2-10 record.

Ateneo and Adamson, which tied for first at 10-2, will decide the No. 1 slot on Sunday.

The Final 4 starts on Sept. 24 at a yet to be decided venue.

The 6-foot-5 Abelardo finished with 17 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as he joined hands with David Poblete (10 rebounds) in routing the Pages off the boards, 47-34.

Flores contributed 13 points, while Simon Atkins and starting point guard Lope Juban combined for 16.

Scores:

First Game (Jrs)

UST 74—Franco 20, Crisostomo 13, Flores 7, Poblete 7, Basa 7, Badua 7, Leyga 6, Mejica 3, De la Cruz 2, Panahon 2, Domingo 2, Zapanta 0.

UPIS 68—Villanueva 17, Do Peralta 12, Arañas 11, Gonzales 9, Villaneuva 7, Olan 5, Oliveros 5, Maniego 2, Nierras 0, Lazo 0, Bautista 0.

Quarters: 20-15, 37-30, 58-48, 74-68.

Second Game (Jrs)

LA SALLE-ZOBEL 60—Abelardo 17, Flores 13, Atkins 9, Poblete 8, Juban 7, Salvador 4, Reyes 2, Roxas 0.

UE 55—Zamar 15, De la Cruz 15, Simbulan 14, Tungcul 4, Juliane 3, Sumalinog 2, Porlaje 2, Valerio 0.

Quarters: 20-10, 36-24, 48-39, 60-55.

Lady Pirates seek 7th straight win

DEFENDING champion Lyceum seeks a seventh straight victory and a firm hold of top spot while College of Saint Benilde tries to forge a tie for second as the 34th WNCAA-Adidas tournament resumes this weekend at separate venues.

Lyceum battles host Siena College of Quezon City (3-3) at 3:30 p.m. at the St. Scholastica's College gym, hoping to gain a one-game advantage over idle second placer St. Benedict College (6-1).

CSB, at 5-1, ties SBC for second with a win over St. Scho (1-7) in their 6:30 p.m. duel.

University of the Assumption-Pampanga and Rizal Technological University, both sporting 3-3 slates, part ways at 2 p.m. while the 5 p.m. game pits Miriam College (2-2) against Assumption College (3-3).

In seniors volleyball at the Chiang Kai Shek College gym, UA-P tries to fortify its hold of third place when it goes up against CSB at 12 noon.

Emilio Aguinaldo College Manila and Siena tangle at 1:30 p.m.

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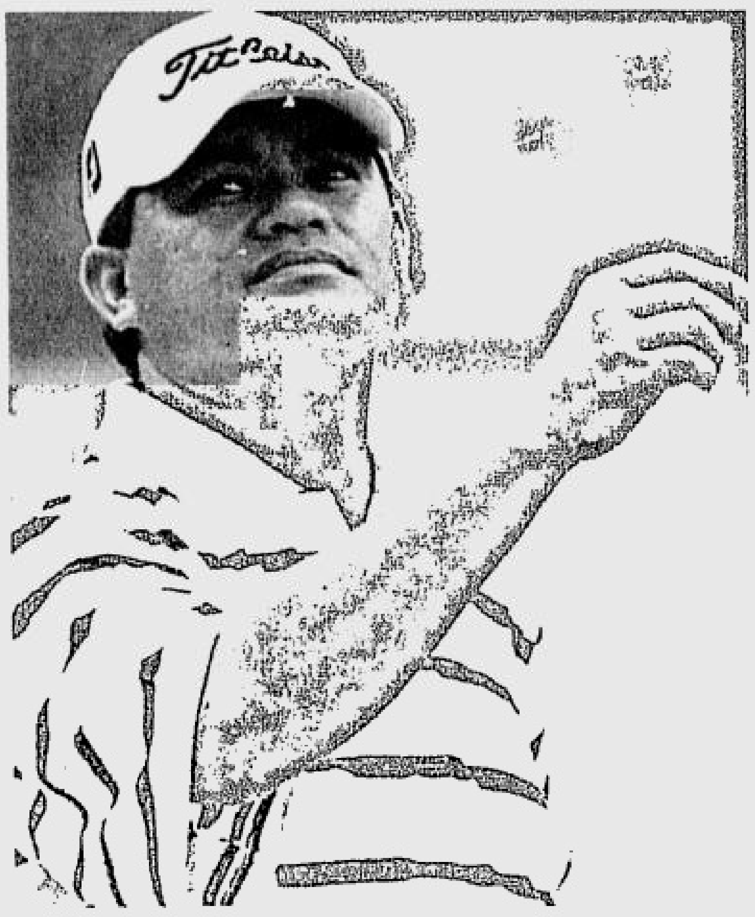
Miñoza 4th after late birdie binge

Nation Cuppers struggle



MIÑOZA: Five shots behind Taiwanese leader.

FLASHING a renewed confidence late in the season, Frankie Miñoza fired a 2-under-par 70 yesterday and moved up to joint fourth at the halfway mark of the ANA Open at the Sapporo Golf Club in Hokkaido, Japan.

The 43-year-old Miñoza one-putted the last three holes and nailed birdies on the 16th and 17th to jump from ninth place with a 36-hole aggregate of 138, 6-under-par. He shot a 68 in the first round.

The Filipino star trailed Taiwanese Yeh Wei-Tze, who shot a 66 for 133, by five strokes but was just one behind Paul Sheehan (71) and Taichi Teshima (72) who shared second place at 137.

Miñoza is gunning for only his second top 10 showing in 14 events in 2003. After missing the cut in six of the first eight tournaments he played, Frankie finished in the money in his last five events topped by a ninth place finish in the Sun Chlorella Classic.

Miñoza, whose last victory in the Japan Tour came in the Fujisankei Classic in May 2001, had five birdies for the day against three bogeys.

In Singapore, the World Cup bid of Gerald Rosales and Angelo Que lost steam as they fell to a share of 10th with Malaysia in the second round of the National Cup.

Rosales and Que had a birdieless 4-over-par 76 playing the alternate shots format at the Laguna National Golf and Country Club and fell out of the top four with a 144 aggregate.

The Filipinos struggled with their putting and trailed the pacesetting Myanmar team of Kyi Hla Han and Aung Win by eight strokes going to the weekend battle where play shifts back to bestball on Saturday and then again to alternate shots on Sunday.

The Filipinos bogeyed three times in a four-hole stretch from the 10th and failed to recoup the strokes in the remaining holes.

Only the top four countries after Sunday's final round will advance to the World Cup proper this November in Kiawah Island, South Carolina.

"We struggled on the greens and that's the story of our round today," said the Samsung-sponsored Que. *With a report from Jong Arcano*

Paragua grabs solo lead in Spain tilt

PARAGUA

FILIPINO International Master Mark Paragua beat IM Javier Moreno Ruiz of Spain Thursday night to grab the solo lead after the seventh round of the VII Open International De Ajedrez Parla 2003 in Madrid, Spain.

The 19-year-old GM-candidate boosted his record to six wins against one loss for a total of 6.5 points in the 143-man field. Paragua will be facing GM Azer Mirzoev (6 points) of Azerbaijan in round eight Friday.

Even if he wins, however, Paragua has no chances of bagging his second GM result as Fide (International Chess Federation) rules stipulate that a player needs to face 3 GMs in nine rounds to attain a GM result.

Tying at 3rd to 11th places with 5.5 points each are IM Jose Rodriguez and IM Maikel Gongora of Cuba, IM Ruiz, GM Salvador Del Rio Angelis, IM Herminio Herraiz Hidalgo and IM Victoriano Gallego Jimenez of Spain, IM Omar Almeida, IM Slobodan Kovacevic of Yugoslavia, and GM Oleg Korneev of Russia. *With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

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Eagle Ridge marks Inaugural Weekend with lavish fiesta

THE 700-HECTARE Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club celebrates the completion of one of Asia's biggest golf complexes in today's grand Inaugural Weekend in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Awaiting thousands of Eagle Ridge members and invited guests is a virtual smorgasbord of sports competitions from the four golf courses to the other facilities for basketball, bowling, tennis, badminton and swimming at the Family and Sports Clubhouse.

The focal point of the opening fiesta is the Fore x Four member-guest golf tournament marking the opening of Eagle's fourth and last all-weather championship course designed by Greg "The White Shark" Norman.

Set to become a first in local history, the Fore x Four calls for simultaneous 18-hole action but with different format on the Dye, Aoki, Faldo and Norman courses, with the awarding programs to be held in three separate clubhouses.

And while golfers shoot it out in courses of their choice, action explodes in various points of other clubhouses which will also be inaugurated today.

Tommy Alcantara and Exequiel Robles, chair and president, respectively, of Alsons Group and Sta. Lucia Realty, the joint partners for Eagle Ridge, will lead the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon.

Expected to join them are Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Vice Gov. Jonvic Remulla, Gen. Trias Mayor Osboy Campania, Vice Mayor Jonjon Ferrer, Sta. Lucia Realty EVP Vicente Santos and Eagle Ridge project director Winifred Gob.

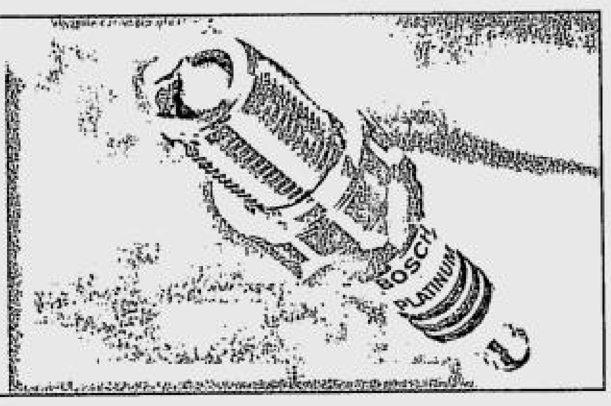
Supporting the various sports events are Petron, Callaway, Mizuno and Cobra for golf, Head Penn for tennis, Swans for swimming, Titleist and Winex and Tronex for badminton, Lone Star Lite for billiards and bowling. Omega heads the raffle sponsors.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Game—Knicks vs Sixers, 1989; 7:30 a.m.; Solar Sports—With time running down, Philadelphia's Charles Barkley's last second shot clanks off the rim. The Knicks celebrate. It was Patrick Ewing's first playoff win.

Schedule subject to change without prior notice.



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San Mig All-Stars in Ilocos

VIGAN, Ilocos Sur—The touring San Miguel All-Stars tests the Ilocos Sur selection Saturday in an exhibition game expected to be watched by a jampacked crowd at the Sto. Domingo gym here.

PBA legends Samboy Lim and Hector Calma, along with Pido Jarencio and Henry Fernandez, failed to make the trip due to previous commitments. But coach Cris Calilan, pinch-hitting for Eric Altamirano, said his squad will give the host team a good fight.

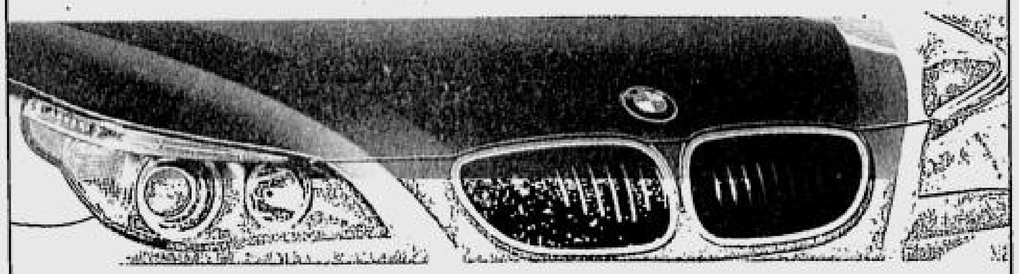
Altamirano, the project director of the team, didn't join the trip because he just came from Laoag where the other set of SMC All-Stars played last week.

Ilocos Sur will be bannered by Fil-Ams Kenny Evans, formerly of Alaska in the PBA, and pro-hopeful Kalani Ferreria. Providing muscle inside are 6-foot-6 Oliver Agapito and burly 6-foot-3 forward Jerome Barbosa.

Ilocos Sur will be handled by two-time State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association Region I champion University of Northern Philippines coach Mario Quitoriano.

Also on tap is the Skill Builder Camp for kids aged eight to 14 to be hosted by Calilan and his players.

Preceding the exhibition game is a motorcade.



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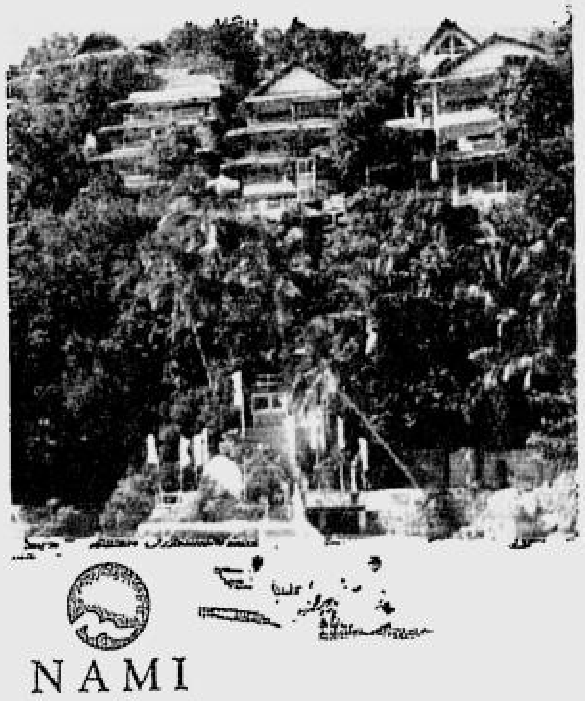

NOTICE
The Board of Directors of **AJL Properties & Development Corporation (AJLPDC)** announces the ongoing reorganization in the management of its **NAMI PRIVATE VILLAS**, Boracay. The public, its patrons and guests are hereby informed that bookings and transactions shall be exclusively conducted at its Makati office in **Penthouse, The Valero Tower, 122 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City with Tel. Nos. (632) 818 6237 /818 6435 and Fax No. (632) 813 0276** only. Any other bookings and transactions conducted outside the said office are unauthorized and shall not be honored by **AJLPDC.** Please disregard any previous notices.
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SPORTSWATCH

Accel, Skyflakes dispute lead

ACCEL and Skyflakes try to gain a share of the lead as they battle each other today in the semifinals of The Corporate Billiards League at the Robinson's Galleria. The winner will join Beer na Beer on top of this event sponsored by Tanduay with the support of Rommel's Billiards. The match will be telecast over the National Broadcasting Network, 8-9 p.m, with hosts Danny Romero and Recah Trinidad. Accel made the semifinals via a 7-5 win over LBC behind the trio of European champion Marcus Chamat, Chris Dayrit and Daniel de la Rosa. Skyflakes advanced on the heroics of Fred Danao for a 7-6 escape over Toby's. Danao will be joined by Benedict Baay and Venancio Tanyo.

Generals stay alive, Doves in finals

ROOKIE Ronjay Buenafe barreled his way past three defenders with 6.2 seconds left, sending the Emilio Aguinaldo Generals to an 80-78 victory over the Philippine School of Business Administration Jaguars in the semifinals of the Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (Ucaa) men's basketball tournament at the Tanduay gym. The 19-year-old Buenafe laid up 7 seconds after a triple from Romer Diaz had tied the count at 78 for the Jaguars. The Generals of coach Norman Isla thus forced a rubber match with the Jaguars for the second best-of-three finals slot. St. Francis of Assisi came away with the first championship berth as itdowned La Salle Dasmariñas, 98-84.

Ateneo, San Agustin clash for title

FAVORED Ateneo and Colegio San Agustin will dispute the NCR title of the Red Ribbon Bakeshop Under-14 Football Festival at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at the Ateneo field in Quezon City. Southridge and Xavier will clash for third place at 9 p.m. The Ateneans whipped Southridge, 5-2, while the CSA boys nipped Xavier School, 2-1, in last week's crossover semifinals. Ateneo, CSA, Southridge and Xavier came up with strong performances in the quarterfinals of the tourney sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation and sponsored by Red Ribbon Bakeshop. Ateneo ousted Don Bosco Makati, 4-0, behind the two goals of Miguel Montelibano. In other games, CSA crushed San Beda, 7-0; Southridge blanked Claret, 4-0; and Xavier toppled De La Salle Zobel, 4-0.

Sy, Pena raring to go to Formula BMW

THE YOUNGEST Filipino International formula driver, Tyson Sy, and his equally talented teammate, Dado Peña, are raring to go to the Formula BMW Asia Series' Rds. 11 & 12 in the Autopolis Track, Japan on Sept. 28. After making history when he won his first race in Rd. 9 of the FBMW Asia Rookie Championship last month at the Taebaek Circuit, South Korea, the 15-year-old Sy will try to wrest the championship in the last four rounds. `` I was very happy with my win in Korea and will try my best to get the championship this year," said Sy. ``We will all be in a new circuit and no top contender will have an advantage over the other." Korean Kyoung-Ouk You is leading the rookie race, ahead of Tyson by 15 points. Three Filipinos are in the top 5 rookie standings with Don Pator of Team TEC Pilipinas at third and Peña at fifth.

Youth triathlon in Clark Field

THE THIRD leg of the 2003 Fit & Tri Youth Triathlon Series will be held on Oct. 4 at the Clearwater Resort in Clark Field, Pampanga. It will be the first time in three years that the series will hold a leg outside Metro Manila. Firstwave Events Inc., organizers of the country's only youth triathlon series together with TRAP (Triathlon Association of the Philippines), finds the venue inside Clark Field an ideal place for the event because of its well-maintained grounds and safe surroundings. Championship points are up for grabs in the Clearwater Resort competition set at 2 p.m. Registration will start at 10 a.m. Interested parties can text 0918-9246299 for inquiries or download registration forms at the yahoo egroups web site of Firstwavetri. Pre-registration payments can be deposited at I-bank Makati Avenue, Firstwave Events, Current Account #017030004450. Completed deposit slips can be faxed to 8956548.

Checkmate goes to Dagupan

CSI the City Mall in Dagupan City will be the venue for a special series of Milo Checkmate clinic in Region I starting at 10:30 a.m. today. The classes will be conducted at the mall's big atrium from 10:30 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. It consists of five consecutive Saturday's chess lectures and a final evaluation tournament. Open to kids aged 5-18 years old, acceptance of enrollees begins at 10 a.m. today at the venue. For details, call the Metropolitan Chess Club at 0916-852-1069. Meanwhile, the first NCR qualifying tournament for the selection of 2004 US-bound Checkmate team kicks off at 9 a.m. today at the MCC-headquarters at the J & F Divino Bldg. along Aurora Blvd. in Quezon City.

Lipa Cathedral golf fund raiser

THE 2ND Lipa Cathedral Fund Raising Golf Tournament will be held on Oct. 10 at the Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club, Lipa City, this time for the benefit of the San Sebastian Cathedral Pipe Organ Foundation. The first tournament last year raised additional funds for the repar and refurbishment of the 34-year-old rare pipe organ which has recently ben installed. Msgr. Alfredo Madlangbayn, Vicar-General and Parish Priest of San Sebastian Cathedal, anticipates a repeat of the successful launching of the event last year. For inquiries call Bing at (043) 756-5590.

Stag festival at Roligon today

MORE than 80 fights will spice up Roligon Mega Cockpit's "Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby" championship round at 5 p.m. today. Fifteen cockers tallied two points each in last Thursday's second round eliminations. They are Jun Marasigan (JM Intruder), Boy de los Reyes (BSJ Christopher), Boy Gamilla (BMJ Trixx Sept. 30), Ruel Ricafort (JLR 108), Emitt San Jaun (San Lorenzo), Jeff Chua (Careless and Osprey entries), Dr. Ayong Lorenzo (EDL Excellence), Art de Castro (Bokal and Stainless entries), Norberto Bantillo (DDD), Moody Almendras (Brithday Girft ii), Eugene Allanigue (Mendalla Realty), Nicky Garganta (Nicky) and Benjie Sarmiento (BNB). Twenty new entries will field five cocks each today, according to promoter Rolly Ligon, that's why aficionados are assured of non-stop fights from start to finish. For other details, contact 833-2275 and 833-1638.

FOR RP CYCLING: Air21 chair Bert Lina confers with Dato' Seri G. Darshan Singh, the Malaysian president of the Asian Cycling Confederation and a member of the Union Cycliste Internationale, in last Sunday's national federation elections at the Amoranto Velodrome. Lina and 14 others were elected to the federation board.

TEAM WINNERS: Members of Team Polo display their medals and trophies after winning the team championship in the recently concluded Prince Amateur Badminton Circuit. The event brought together 360 from all over the Metro Manila.

PBA reinforcements for ABC-b

By Dennis U. Eroa

IN A last-ditch effort to field a competitive team, the Basketball Association of the Philippines has asked the PBA to lend some of its players to reinforce the national team competing in the 22nd ABC Championship in Harbin, China from Sept. 23 to Oct. 1.

"We cannot turn our back on this prestigious tournament. I am confident the PBA will help us in this national endeavor," BAP secretary general Graham Lim said yesterday.

"The ABC is a national commitment."

In a letter to Commissioner Noli Eala, Lim requested the PBA for six reinforcements after several mainstays of the Cebuana Lhuillier-supported RP team failed to get clearance from their respective teams.

National coach Aric del Rosario, also a member of the Talk 'N Text coaching staff, said he had already spoken with some of his peers in the PBA and was assured of their support.

"I understand that there are some things which must be cleared with the Commissioner's Office regarding their (the players) participation," Del Rosario said.

Those being consid as replacements are Ocampo, Ren Ren Ritu Rodriguez, Red Bull's Cyrus Baguio, Talk 'N de Guzman, and Coke

The three FedEx pl shoo-ins after FedEx also the BAP vice pre declared all his players

DAVIS CUP

Hewitt draws first blood for Australia

HEWITT punches the air after beating Switzerland's Michel Kratochvil in their opening Davis Cup match.

AFP

MELBOURNE, Australia—Lleyton Hewitt put Australia one-up in the Davis Cup tennis semifinal after a dominant 6-4, 6-4, 6-1 win over Switzerland's Michel Kratochvil at Melbourne Park here on Friday.

Hewitt, the world's seventh-ranked player and former number one, improved his Davis Cup singles record to 21-5 in four years' competition with his one hour 48-minute victory over the 129th-ranked Swiss.

It was just the tonic the Australians needed ahead of Mark Philippoussis' anticipated rematch with Wimbledon champion and world number three Roger Federer later Friday.

The winner of the weekend tie has a home final against either Spain or Argentina on Nov. 28-30.

"This is a great advantage for Australia going into the next match, which will be a beauty," Hewitt said.

"It obviously puts a lot more pressure on Roger to come out one-love down, hopefully Flip (Philippoussis) can go out a play a beauty of a match tonight.

"I tried to put pressure on him (Kratochvil) right from the start, I felt like he had a bit of a dodgy serve but to his credit he served extremely well and I had to go after it a bit and he made me make a few more errors than I normally would.

"I didn't drop my serve for the match, which is a pleasing thing for me." Hewitt jumped on Kratochvil's unthreatening serve, crashing home 12 forehand winners during the rubber and gained in intensity as he gradually got on top of the 24-year-old Swiss before a full house at the home of the Australian Open.

Hewitt broke the Swiss in the opening game with Kratochvil's forehand long on break point.

Kratochvil had his chance with three break points in the fourth game, but Hewitt fought back to hold service.

Hewitt wrapped up the opening set in 45 minutes and got an early break in the second when the Swiss was down 0-40 and sent a backhand long.

The Australian took control of the match, reeling off the second set in 35 minutes and broke Kratochvil three times in the final set for a comprehensive victory and his second over in the Swiss in as many meetings.

Hewitt won their other encounter 6-4, 6-2 in Tokyo two years ago.

Meanwhile, the United States must beat Slovakia on clay in this weekend's Cup playoff or be demoted to the second tier of the competition. That hasn't happened in 15 years.

Led by US Open champion Andy Roddick, the Americans are hoping for a victory in the World Group playoff would keep them in the 16-team top division with high hopes for 2004 and a record 32nd title.

"The way I see it, this is the start of our run to try to win this thing and we have to get through this match first," said Roddick, who has won 19 straight matches on hard courts.

"This is obviously not where we want to be.

AFP, AP

Top four seeds corner semis slots in

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Fourth seed Rolando Ruel Jr. rallied past eighth-ranked Pop Sabandon, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, yesterday to reach the semifinals of the Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Circuit at the Xavier Sports and Country Club court here.

Ruel's next opponent is top seed Johnny Arcilla of the Philippine Air Force, who scored a 6-3, 6-1 victory over fifth seed Rocky Paglalunan of PUP.

Also advancing were second seed Adelo Abadia, who prevailed over the exhausted Jesse Lapore, 6-4, 2-0 (ret.), and third seed Joseph Victorino, who posted a 6-3, 6-1 victory over sixth seed Alexander Lazaro.

In the doubles, La Salle's Chase Tinio and Ricardo Lagac Jr. pulled off a 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 upset win over fifth seeds Joel Palao and Jesse Lapore to advance in the semifinal round of this P200,000 leg sanctioned by Philta and suppo ed by Accel Sports, Key Printing, Le Soleil de B racay, Oceanic 1911, All Care Insurance, Fie Brands, O2 Plus and Dunlop Slazenger.

Tinio and Lagac will face top seeds Arcilla a Michael Mora III, who demolished Alan Es and Edison Sotto, 6-2, 6-1.

Also scoring upset wins were Micha Quinones and Kenneth Madrio over No. 6 Elb

Milo elims turn into a love run

SHE fell face down, crawled, tried to get up, but crashed harder. She refused to quit.

This was some five meters to the finish line.

Race organizers wanted to rescue her but hesitated as this could mean outright disqualification.

How Ermelita Castillo mercifully reached the finish line after fighting off crippling cramps for nearly three kilometers in the women's elimination run of the recent 27th National Milo Marathon in Baguio City is one for a Valentine book.

Castillo, who finished third in the race to qualify for next month's grand Milo Marathon, swore she did it for love.

After the race, Castillo explained that she was originally slated to join the 5-km fun run but changed her mind and joined the 20-km race proper.

She said she wanted to prove to her boyfriend, Jeffrey Lance, a discuss and hammer thrower from the University of Baguio, that she could be worthy of his love.

She did succeed, but the feat proved to be one of the most excruciating efforts in local running annals.

With still 5 km left in the route, Castillo started to feel the stabs of muscle pain. She could have quit but instead plodded on.

Then, with only 5 m remaining in the 20-km race, she crashed on her face.

She tried to get up, but her knees gave in and she started to crawl.

Unable to get back on her feet, the 20-year-old Castillo dropped on her face anew after a couple of strides.

She refused to be counted out and, moving on her knees, she went the rest of the way, drawing cheers from the astonished but elated crowd.

Upon reaching the finish line, Castillo fell for the third time but was immediately given first aid by the members of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC).

"It's not uncommon for runners to suffer cramps or even collapse when they push themselves to the limit," explained race organizer Rudy Biscocho.

"We would have helped her when she was still a few meters away from the finish line but that would have disqualified her. She was, in fact, very determined to finish the race."

Roux Maquino of the PNRC said Castillo was not really unconscious when she fell but she suffered cramps and muscle spasm.

After about 30 minutes, she was able to sit up and began to cry on the shoulders of her boyfriend.

She shed tears of joy and fulfillment.

She said it was not the P5,000 third place purse that motivated her to finish the race. Neither did she compete to qualify for the 27th National Milo Marathon finals in Metro Manila.

All she wanted was to prove a loving point to her boyfriend.

As it turned out, Lance's former sweetheart is also a marathoner.

Despite being also an athlete, Castillo is not really trained for long-distance running. She competes in the pentathlon and the hurdles for Baguio Colleges Foundation (BCF). She joined the Milo Marathon 5-K run two years ago.

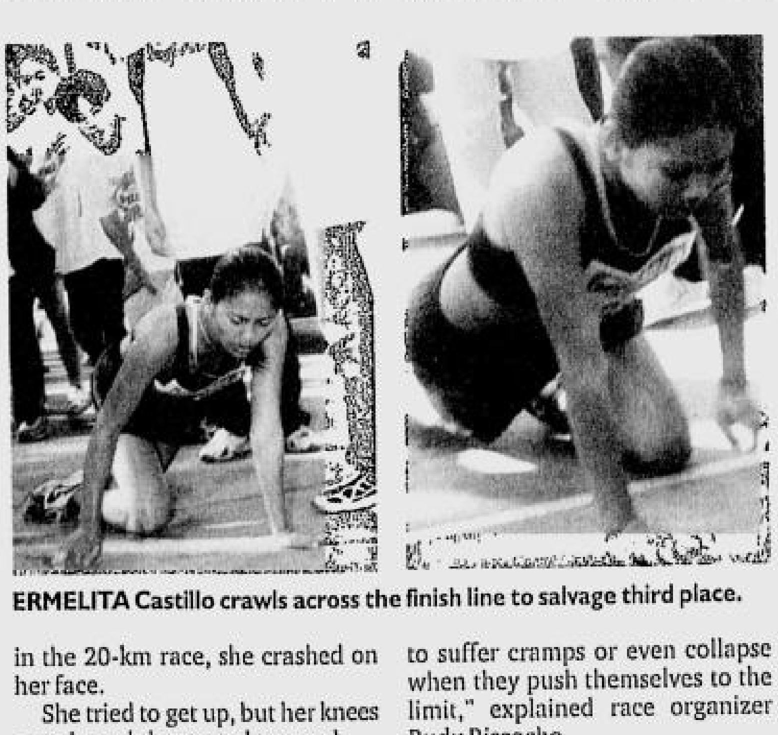
She said she returned to running this year to prove she could outdo Lance's former girlfriend.

"*Nag-away po kami ni Jepoy* (Lance) *nung nakita ko yung* picture *nung ex niya na* marathoner *din*," narrated Castillo who jabbed a look at her boyfriend who was massaging her legs. "*Kaya gusto kong ipakita sa kanya na kaya ko ring tumakbo sa* marathon."

Moments later, Lance embraced Castillo and whispered something to her.

Castillo answered with a smile before tears again welled in her eyes.

Asked if she would run in the 42-K Milo Marathon finale next month, Castillo answered, "*Hindi na.* What's the use?"



ERMELITA Castillo crawls across the finish line to salvage third place.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ound National team

ered by the BAP
edEx's Yancy de
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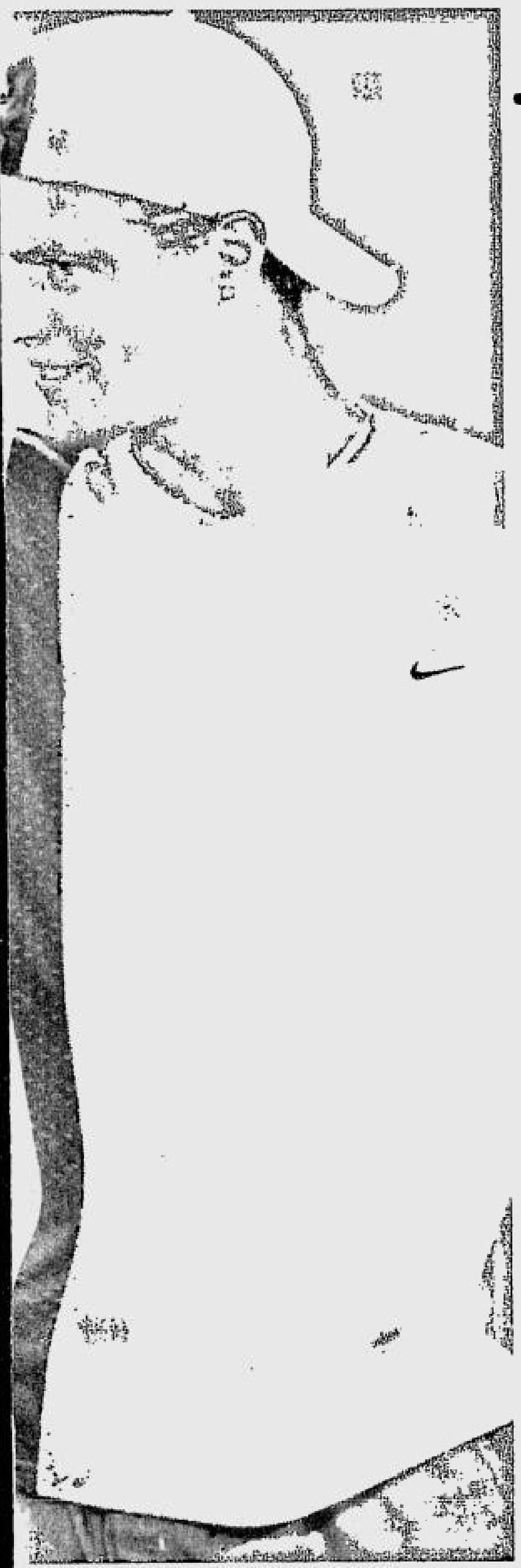
Text's Jonathan
Gilbert Lao.
vers are virtual
wner Bert Lina,
ident for Luzon,
available for the national team even at the expense of their campaign in the current Reinforced Conference.

Lim sought the PBA's help after standouts Gary David, Ervin Sotto and Ranidel de Ocampo, who starred in RP's winning campaign in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) tournament, were withdrawn by their respective teams which are either preparing for or competing in tournaments.

The remaining members are Richard Melencio, Celino Cruz, Dennis Madrid, Emmerson Oreta, William Wilson, Nelbert Omolon, Jean Pingris, Ricky Calimag and Bernzon Franzo.

The Philippines, a giant in the ABC until the country's players joined the PBA in 1975, is bracketed in Group D with Qatar, Japan and Jordan.



Jacobson matches European record 60

PULHEIM, Germany—Sweden's Fredrik Jacobson took advantage of perfect weather Thursday to tie the European tour record for the lowest score, firing a 12-under-par 60 in the first round of the Linde German Masters.

The 28-year-old had a chance to snap the record shared by 11 players on the 18th hole, but his 7-meter (20-foot) chip shot for birdie skipped well left of the hole and rolled for another 12 feet.

Jacobson then recovered to make par, add his name to the record books and take a three-stroke lead into the second round. In all, the Swede carded 10 birdies and an eagle on a sunny windless day, needing just 21 putts. His round broke the Gut Laerchenhof course record of 62, set last year by England's Paul Casey.

"I think this was absolutely a perfect round," Jacobson said. "You can't make every putt but I made so many of them. It was fantastic to have a chance to shoot 60, I have not been that close before."

K. J. Choi held second in his debut on the European tour, outside of the British Open, scoring a 63 by spreading around nine birdies.

Two strokes behind the South Korean at 65 were five players, including Darren Clarke, who is trying to catch Ernie Els as the tour's leading money winner.

"I think I played well but overall the other players played well too. It is important to be there with them," Choi said through an interpreter.

Choi has already established himself on the US tour. He captured two titles last year and is currently perched 34th on the money list.

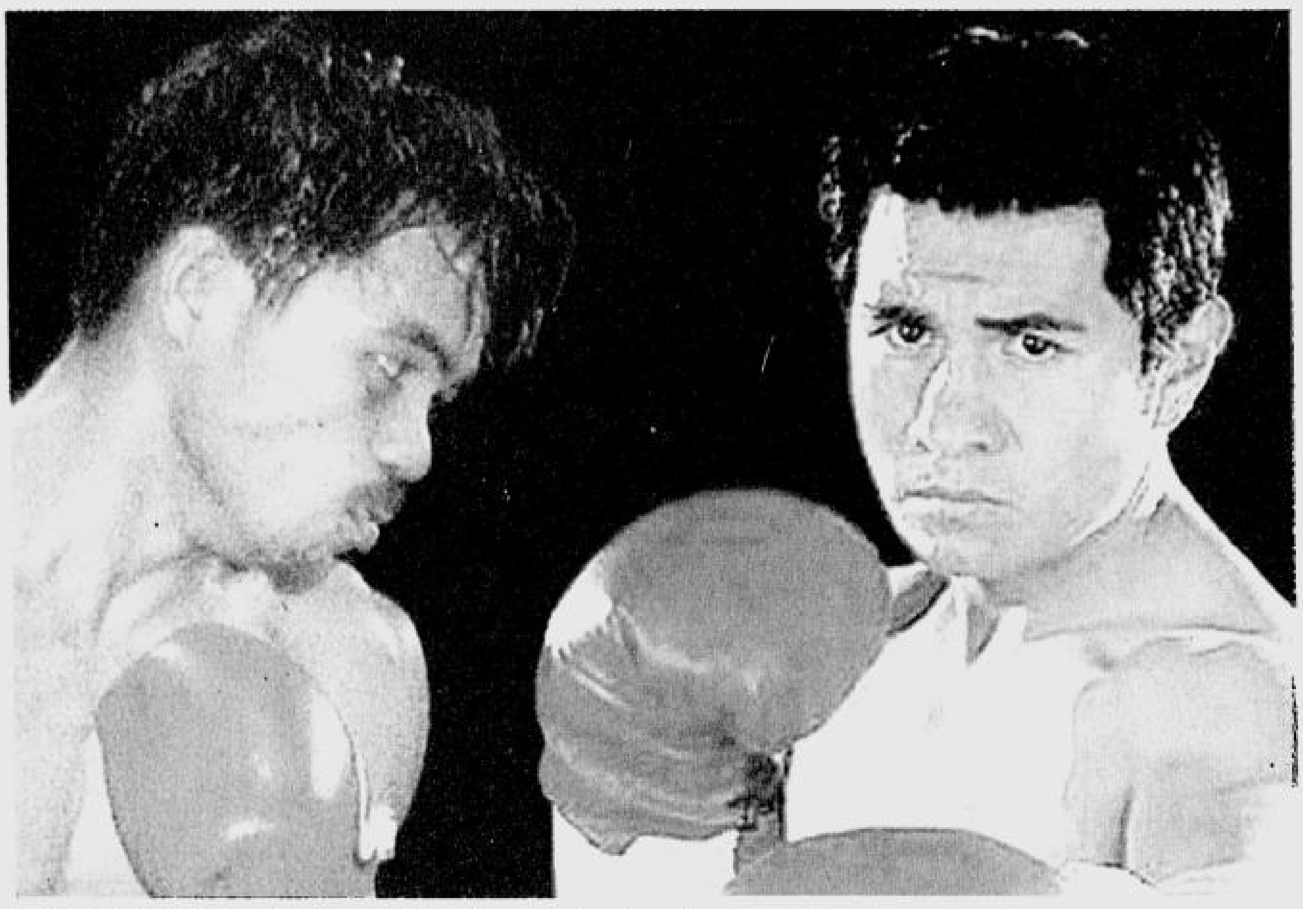
Jacobson had a hot putter from the start, sinking a 40-footer on his third hole. By the 13th, the Swede had raced to 10-under and thought he could become the first to shoot a 59 on the European tour.

He began to close in on the record at the lucrative 3 million euros (US$3.36 million) event by drilling a 12 foot birdie putt on the 16th hole. Another stroke was picked up in similar fashion on the following hole.

However, he was unable to get himself in position for a birdie putt on the 417-yard (456-meter), par-4 final hole with its long water hazard to dodge, and that eased the pressure on him.

"That was the only thing on my mind," he said. "I think if I had had a putt for a 59, I would have been shaking."

The Swede is enjoying a breakthrough year, chasing his third title this year. AP



BARRERA (right) considers Manny Pacquiao a very tough customer.

Barrera expects hard fight against Pacquiao

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

WHAT does pound-for-pound boxing great Marco Antonio Barrera think of Filipino boxing idol Manny Pacquiao?

Finally breaking his silence, Barrera has branded his forthcoming clash with Pacquiao "a very hard fight."

Barrera quickly added that he has been "training like never before."

In an interview with Boxing Gladiator's German Villasenor, Barrera admitted that Pacquiao is a heavy-hitter who should be taken very seriously.

"He's a strong puncher and a champion," Barrera confided.

Barrera (57-3, 40 KOs) and Pacquiao (37-2-1, 29 KOs) battle it out over 12 rounds in a non-title featherweight event dubbed as the Peoples' Championship of the world.

They square off at the 126-lb weight limit.

Venue for the bout is uncertain, although former WBA/WBC junior middleweight champ Oscar De La Hoya, who promotes Barrera, admitted also last week that the bout is "85 percent" going to happen at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

"I'm not underestimating Pacquiao. We are training very hard because we do not want any surprises. Especially now that we are with our new management/promoter," Barrera stressed.

The battle with Barrera will earn Pacquiao a whopping $350,000, easily the biggest purse ever for a Filipino boxer.

A rematch clause is included in the contract should Pacquiao win; however, no rematch is guaranteed if Barrera comes out victorious.

Pacquiao, who is set to depart for the US later this month with personal trainer Buboy Fernandez, is currently training at the Almendras Gym in Davao City.

He's expected to enter the ring as the underdog, but Pacquiao has been exuding with confidence that he could beat Barrera.

Salazar stops Kazakh; 3 other RP pugs lose

XINJIANG, CHINA—Light-flyweight Lhyven Salazar, fighting in numbing temperature, scored a stoppage to save the day for RP Team Revicon at the start of the 2003 Xinjiang International Boxig Championships here Thursday.

Salazar stopped Sikymbateb of Kazakhstan in the third round of their four-round bout when the referee ruled an RSC-O (Referee Stopped Contest-Outclassed).

The victory sent the Bacolod native to the semifinals for an automatic bronze medal in this annual tournament which has attracted 14 teams from 11 nations.

Lightweight Anthony Igusquiza, light welterweight Florencio Ferrer and welterweight Francis Joven suffered points losses, thereby leaving only Salazar and four teammates in the hunt for medals.

Igusquiza absorbed a 16-7 decision from Japanese Takashi Uchigama; Ferrer took a 12-20 defeat from Jeirmubatu of Beijing, China; while Joven was sent to the exit by Chinese national team mainstay Li Yan, 19-13.

Flyweight Violito Payla and featherweight Roel Laguna were set to see action against Chinese opponents Friday.

Bantamweight Ferdie Gamo and light middleweight Maraon Goles enter the ring today also against Chinese fighters.

Arum admits post-fight comments uncalled for

LAS VEGAS—Promoter Bob Arum said Thursday that comments he made about the scoring in the Oscar De La Hoya-Shane Mosley fight could be "interpreted as inappropriate."

Arum made claims of misconduct Monday against a Nevada boxing commission member in helping pick the judges who worked the 154-pound title fight, which Mosley won by unanimous decision last Saturday.

ARUM

"In the emotional and heated moments after his disappointing loss, I, unfortunately, reacted by making comments that might be interpreted as inappropriate to the state of Nevada and its athletic commission," Arum said.

DE LA HOYA

De La Hoya has called for the public to be told how judges are selected and trained, and how scoring is done.

"I look forward to joining Oscar in structuring a boxing reform program," said Arum, who encouraged fans to watch the re-broadcast of the fight Saturday on HBO "to judge for themselves."

State athletic commission legal counsel Keith Kizer said Tuesday that Arum will be sent a letter inviting him to appear before the commission and formally lay out his charges of misconduct in the scoring. *AP*

Oro netfest

Anasta and Paglalunan, 6-4, 6-2, and Greg Mosqueda and Von Ruelan over No. 7 Gilbert Estrada and Antonio Sagansay, 7-5, 6-0.

Other winners were No. 2 Jaime Solon and Junjun Toledo over Nino John Antalan and Rolando Nabina, 6-1, 6-1, No. 3 Victorio and Sabandon over Andy Autentico and Cesar Craiz, 6-3, 6-1, and No. 4 Ruel and Lazaro over Bo Alburo and Arvin Jurao, 7-5, 6-1.

Yao repulses Austria, bags tablenet title

DENISE Anika Yao produced the worthiest victory in the first LG Table Tennis age-group invitational championships when she battled from two sets down to repulse Jamie Austria and snatch the 10-under crown before a big crowd at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

The 9-year-old Yao, from Anglo Cultural School, never got discouraged after falling behind, 8-11, and 10-12, and instead showed some kind of resiliency by foiling Austria's bid with a cliffhanger of a win in the third set, 15-13.

Yao, a member of the Subic Bay Freeport Table Tennis Club, sustained that momentum and took the fourth, 11-8, then dominated her rival from Cavite in the decider, 11-6, to complete the improbable victory, her very first in a tournament of such magnitude.

Adrian Rodolfo of Amoranto matched that feat by topping the boys 10-under division with an 11-4, 6-11, 11-5, 11-9 victory over Jameson Austria, also of Cavite, at the close of the four-day event sponsored by top electronics firm LG.

St. Martin bets Kimberly Elaine Medina and Nico Paul Cruz, on the other hand, reigned supreme in the 12-under class with the former routing Camille Gutierrez of Batangas, 11-7, 11-5, 8-11, 11-1, and the latter sweeping Michael Rodolfo of Amoranto, 11-8, 11-9, 12-10.

College of St. Benilde bets Kristine Mae Vosotros turned back Avegael Nolasco, 4-11, 11-6, 11-5, 8-11, 11-2, to cop the women's 25-under title in the event held under the auspices of the Table Tennis Association of the Phils. (Tatap).

MONTOYA still bitter over his loss in Monza. REUTERS

Montoya accuses 'Schumi,' Frentzen of collusion

BERLIN—Colombian Formula One driver Juan Pablo Montoya has accused Heinz-Harald Frentzen of helping his fellow German and five-time world champion Michael Schumacher win last week's Italian Grand Prix at Monza—a victory that could have a major impact on the outcome of this year's title race.

"He slowed me down at the decisive moment of overtaking," Montoya told Thursday's Bild newspaper.

Williams driver Montoya finished second in the race behind Schumacher but now trails his Ferrari rival by three points with just two races left in this year's world championship.

He was referring to what happened on the 40th lap of the Grand Prix when Frentzen, driving a Sauber which is powered by a Ferrari engine, slowed down to allow Schumacher to pass.

Montoya believes he was then slowed down at three curves. "If he did it on purpose, it is cheating," said Gerhard Berger, the director of Williams engine suppliers BMW. *AFP*

Thome homer lifts Phillies past Marlins

PHILADELPHIA—Jim Thome hit a tiebreaking home run in the bottom of the eighth inning and the Philadelphia Phillies rallied from an early three-run deficit to defeat the Florida Marlins 5-4 on Thursday.

The win brought the Phillies to within a half-game of the Marlins for the NL wild card lead, as Philadelphia won two of the three games in the crucial series.

The Phillies win also clinched the NL East title for Atlanta, giving the Braves their record 12th consecutive division title.

The Marlins and Phillies meet at Florida in a three-game series next week.

The game was played in strong winds as Hurricane Isabel started its approach into the area.

Originally scheduled to start at 7.05 p.m. (2305 GMT), the game was moved up to the early afternoon to avoid the storm.

Florida grabbed an early 3-0 lead with three fourth inning runs for Dontrelle Willis, but the Phillies answered with three of their own runs in the fifth to tie the game.

Placido Polanco and Tomas Perez also homered for the Phillies, while Mike Lieberthal drove in a pair of runs.

Rheal Cormier (7-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win after starter Kevin Millwood pitched seven strong innings. *Reuters*

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS **From page A22**

1. False (Evander Holyfield did it, too, in 1997)
2. Rocky Marciano (49-0)
3. Joe Frazier
4. Michael Spinks (1985)
5. Jack Johnson (the world's first black heavyweight champ; the film starred James Earl Jones)
6. 45
7. Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa (WBA, 1983-84)

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2 FREDDY VS. JASON	2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE 2:20 4:45 7:10 9:35 12:00	2 FREDDY VS. JASON
3 1ST TIME	THX GUARANTEED SEATS HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE 12:05, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40, 12:00	MARTIN NIEVERA Sep. 19 & 20, 9PM LANI MISALUCHA Oct. 10 & 11, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 3:15, 5:50, 8:25, 11:00	3 BASIC
4 BASIC	4 DADDY DAY CARE		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10 11:30	4 DADDY DAY CARE.
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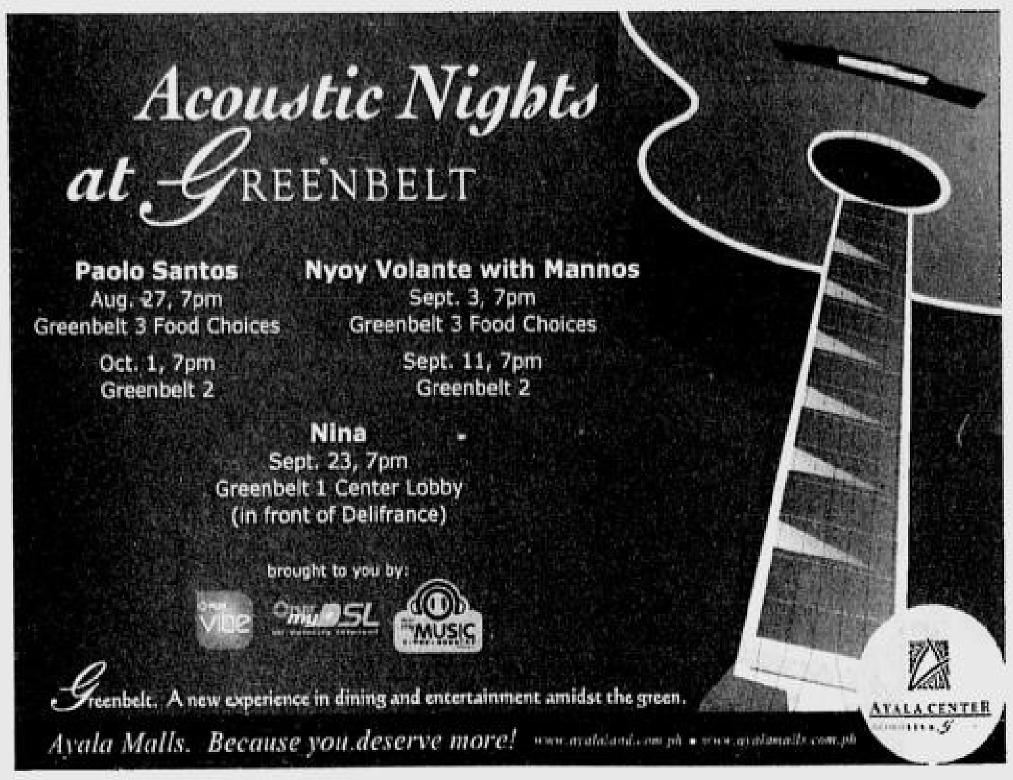
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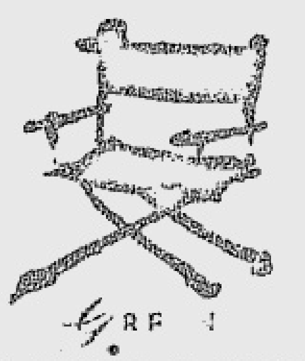

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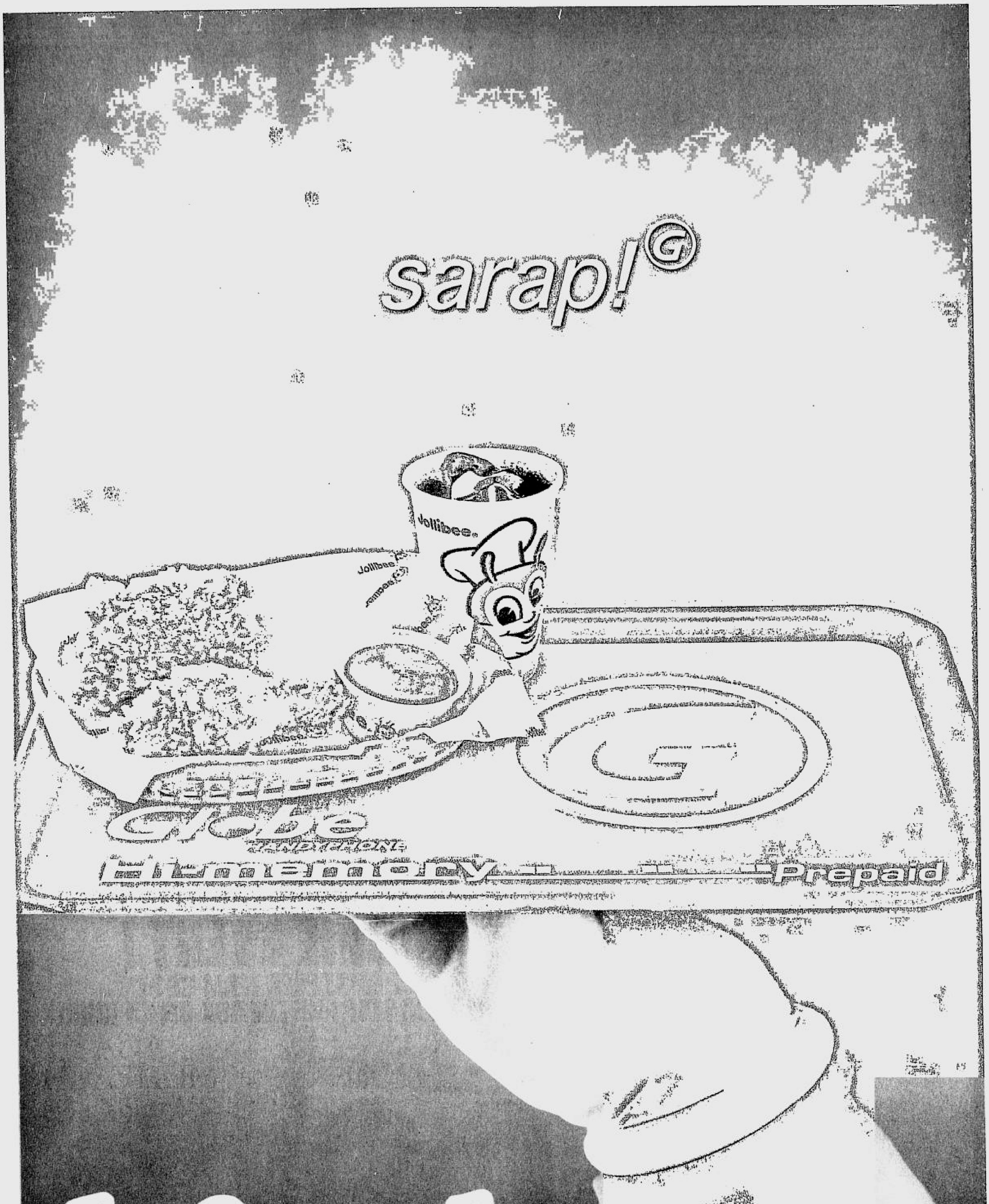

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

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3 groups vie for ₱6.5-B expressway project

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) has pre-qualified three Japanese contractors for the construction of the first phase of the 94.5-km Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project (SCTEP).

The three Japanese joint-venture firms were MTI, Hazama-Taisei-Nippon Steel, and KOJM.

MTI is composed of Maeda Corp., Toyo Construction Co. Ltd., and Ishikawa-Harima Heavy Industries Co. Ltd. The Hazama-Taisei-Nippon group is composed of Hazama Corp, Taisei Corp. and Nippon Steel Corp. The KOJM consortium includes Kajima Corp., Obayashi Corp., JFE Engineering Corp., and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.

The first phase of the expressway project, which costs P6.5 billion, will consist of a 44-km, four-lane superhighway that will connect Clark and Tarlac. Its construction is slated to begin in the first quarter of next year and is targeted to be finished by 2006.

SCTEP has a total project cost of P18.74 billion and 85 percent of the project cost will be financed by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) while the remaining 15 percent will come from the BCDA.

BCDA president and chief executive officer Rufo Colayco said in an earlier interview that the government agency would only be entertaining Japanese bidders as major contractors for the SCTEP as part of the requirement of JBIC in financing the project.

He said, however, that Filipino bidders would be allowed to serve as sub-contractors.

SCTEP is an integral part of the proposed Subic-Clark Alliance for Development (SCAD) program, which is aimed at boosting economic activity in Region III by encouraging investments and infrastructure development.

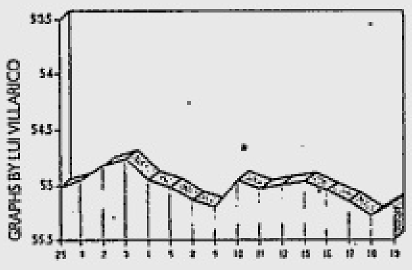
The BCDA said it would soon hold a pre-bid conference for the second phase of the SCTEP, which would consist of seven interchanges, nine bridges, 98 culverts, 11 overpasses, 13 underpasses and a river bridge that will connect Subic and Clark.

The BCDA earlier said it expected to finish building the 90-km project in 2005, noting that right-of-way acquisitions were the only major obstacle to its completion within three years.

The agency estimated that the government would have to acquire a total of 536 hectares of land—348 hectares in the Subic-Clark route and 188 hectares in the Clark-Tarlac segment—and relocate 800 families.

The BCDA has negotiated with the Luisita Development Corp. on 54 hectares of property at the Tarlac industrial estate, while it has started segregation of 66 hectares of government land over four major provinces.

CURRENCIES



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₱ 55.165 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 19, 2003

¥ 115.24 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 19, 2003

GOLD: $376.80-377.30

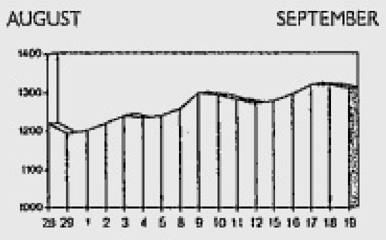
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 19, 2003

September 19, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar*	0.889205	1.000000	55.253000
Japan	Yen	0.007711	0.008672	0.479200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.437933	1.617100	89.349600
Hongkong	Dollar	0.114014	0.128220	7.084500
Switzerland	Franc	0.641840	0.721813	39.882300
Canada	Dollar	0.653443	0.734862	40.603300
Singapore	Dollar	0.508698	0.572082	31.609200
Australia	Dollar	0.592290	0.666089	36.803400
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.358760	2.652661	146.567500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.237122	0.266667	14.734200
Brunei	Dollar	0.507248	0.570451	31.519100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021967	0.024704	1.365000
UAE	Dirham	0.242119	0.272287	15.044700
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.124600	62.137500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.234063	0.263227	14.544100
Mexico	New Peso	0.081525	0.091683	5.065800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518941	0.583601	32.245700
Korea	Won	0.000762	0.000857	0.047400
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026153	0.029412	1.625100

STOCK MARKET

Shares down on profit-taking

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES fell back yesterday as investors cashed in gains after a sharp 3-percent rise earlier in the week, traders said.

They added that a surge in the budget deficit for August, sharply exceeding the government's estimate, also played on investor nerves.

"The market is taking the budget deficit story as a reason for investors to take profits," said Lawrence de Leon, a trader at Accord Capital Equities Corp.

The main stock index closed down 9.91 points or 0.75 percent at 1,309.81. For the week, it finished 2.8 percent higher and is up 28.61 percent this year.

Turnover slipped sharply to P458.1 million from Thursday's heavy P1.24 billion.

Blue-chip telecommunications stocks and some other investor favorites were the main casualties but small cap electronics companies were significant gainers, aided by a rise in the Nasdaq composite index on growing expectations of a rebound in demand for technology products.

De Leon said the market may see a slight correction again on Monday but that the recent uptrend was likely to remain intact in the near term. *Reuters*

Peso closes at 55.16 to $1; BSP lifts 6-month forward cap

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has lifted the six-month restriction on currency forward contracts even while the peso stayed volatile at the 55:$1 level.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said he was confident that the peso would recover toward year's end and average at 54 to a dollar for the full year.

"I don't think it would hurt the peso if we lift the cap on forwards. It should even be good for the capital market because we are encouraging the inflow of dollars," said the BSP chief.

The six-month cap on forward tenors was implemented in March when the peso dropped to 55.09 to $1. The peso yesterday closed at 55.16, up 12 centavos from Thursday. Year-to-date, the peso averaged at 53.88 to a dollar.

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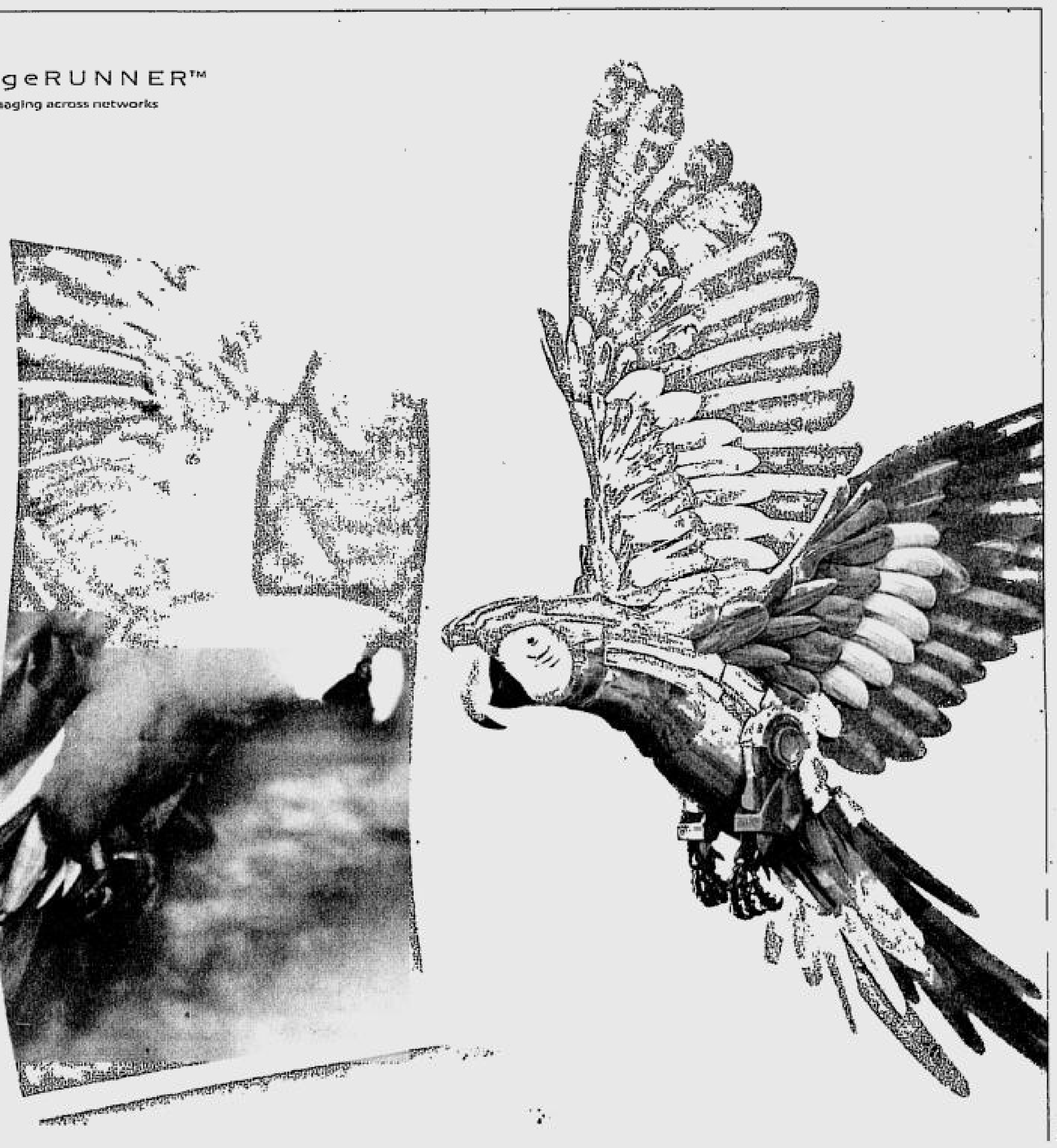

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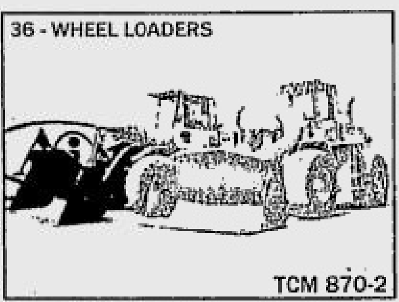
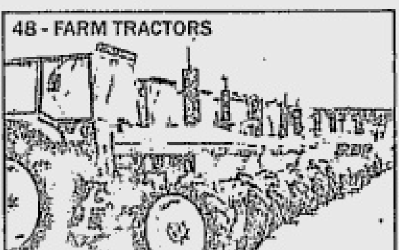
36 - WHEEL LOADERS



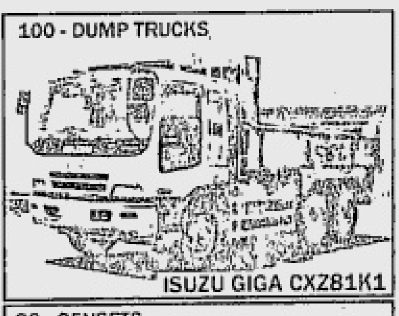
TCM 870-2

48 - FARM TRACTORS



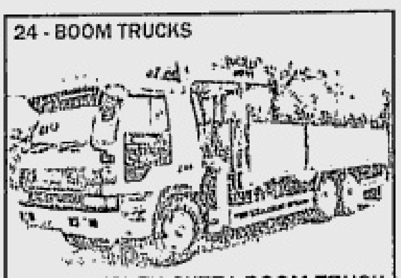
VARIOUS FORD FARM TRACTOR

100 - DUMP TRUCKS



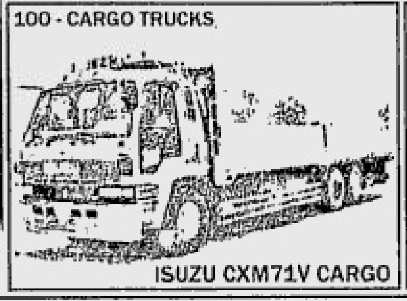
ISUZU GIGA CXZ81K1

24 - BOOM TRUCKS



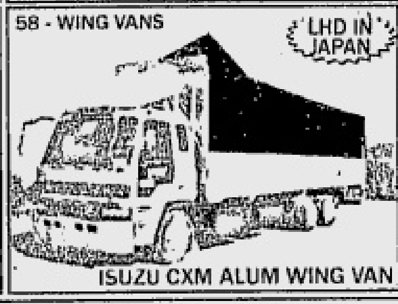
ISUZU CXZ71 BOOM TRUCK

100 - CARGO TRUCKS



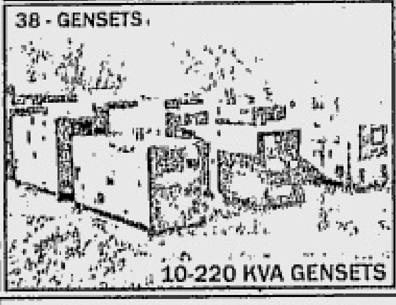
ISUZU CXM71V CARGO

58 - WING VANS
LHD IN JAPAN



ISUZU CXM ALUM WING VAN

38 - GENSETS



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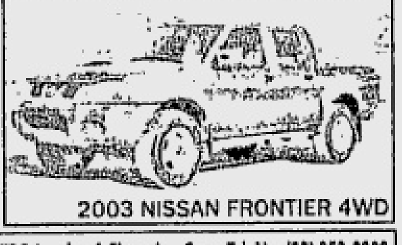

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Side work vendor

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

OUR umber of jobless, based on the latest official data from the NSO, the National Statistics Office, keeps on rising to dangerous levels.

But according to this cute administration of Gloriaetta, the blame for all that goes to—fanfare, please—none other than the weather.

* * *

I'M not kidding. This cute administration's record on job creation borders on the miserable. For this, of course, it does not want to take responsibility.

You see, unfortunately for us, 2004 is just around the corner. It looks like Gloriaetta says one thing and does another. She will break her promise not to run in 2004.

Thus, her people must look around for something to blame. The jobless are increasing, and they are increasing fast.

And so they point to the El Niño phenomenon and the typhoons. See, it's nature's fault. We are not getting help from the heavens. In short, tough luck!

* * *

ALMOST three years ago, when it took over the government, this cute administration promised us jobs.

Today, more and more of us are out of work, based on official data, and one big reason is our population growth rate. It is one of the highest in the world.

In fairness, however, it is not all Gloriaetta's fault. This cute administration did not stay up all night to make all those babies. Well, only some of them!

But the thing is, the high population growth rate is adding more jobless to our already high—frightfully high—number of bums. And what do we do about it?

* * *

WHAT we do is, for one, we blame the weather for the increase in the number of jobless. They are now close to 4.5 million.

To business people, the more meaningful figure is the number of UNDER-employed. They now reach more than 7 million.

They do not belong to the so-called unemployed, simply because the NSO counts them as "employed," if they so much as just wash the dishes in their homes.

They have work, technically, and so they are NOT unemployed. They are just UNDER-employed. The only problem is, they work, sure, but they also do not earn.

* * *

THUS, the jobless figure does not tell the entire story. Somehow the NSO official data just mask the ugly truth. And that is, we are hardly moving forward. Why is that?

A big part of the employed are the so-called SELF-employed. You know—you create your own job, such as the best friends of BF, all those sidewalk vendors.

For instance, those vendors of roses and things in the streets and even in the side streets are working, right? NSO considers them as employed.

How the government can count all those, er, "self-employed" and then list them down as employed, enhancing the statistics, remains a well-kept secret.

BREAKTIME/ B6

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Sept. 19, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17 5	17.25	17.25	243,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43 5	42.5	42 5	715,800
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	400
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34.5	34.5	34	34.5	253,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30	29 5	30	151,300
Philippine National Bank	26	26	25.5	25.5	66,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	5,400
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	2,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	28	28	17,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	77,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1700	1710	1700	1710	100
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	103,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1210	1220	1210	1220	8,720
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.75	25	24.75	24.75	9,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	1,940,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	685	685	665	665	20,710
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	1,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.05	0.047	0.05	9,600,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.67	0.68	0 66	0.67	17,420,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.19	310,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	665	665	660	660	130,020
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	30,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0 013	0.012	0.013	30,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	15 75	15.25	15.25	255,600
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	23.75	23	23	367,600
Petron Corp.	2 04	2 04	2.02	2.04	515,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1 36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.8	2 8	38,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0 29	0 29	0 29	0 29	140,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0 35	0 35	0.35	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3 1	3.1	33,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30 5	30.5	190,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18	184,300
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Swift Food Inc.	0 25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	158,900
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	13,200
Vitarich Corp	0 26	0 27	0.26	0.27	440,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5	5	4.95	5	14,445,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2 85	2.9	2.85	2.9	510,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0 034	0.031	0 031	6,600,000
Alcorn Gold Res Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	22,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1 78	1 78	1.78	1.78	10,000
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.96	2.28	1.94	2.28	58,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.62	12,360,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0 27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,850,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1 02	1.02	1	1	368,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.25	18.5	17.75	18	544,000
Global Equities Inc	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	20,000
Ionics Inc.	1.44	1.72	1.44	1 68	3,868,000
J G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.96	2.02	1.96	2	669,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.98	0.98	0 97	0.97	180,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.3	0 29	0.3	10,000,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	3,940,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0 27	0.27	0.27	3,960,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0 13	0 13	0.13	0.13	240,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	1,385,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	50,000
Wellex Industries Inc	0 32	0 32	0 32	0.32	70,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cerro-Coat Inc.	1 46	1.46	1 46	1 46	60,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	12,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1 9	1.9	1.9	1.9	13,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.085	0 085	0.0825	0.0825	1,200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13 5	13 75	13 5	13 75	6,300
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0 55	890,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	200,000
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	1,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0 19	0.22	0.19	0.19	310,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0 38	0 38	0 38	0.38	350,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	25	25	25	1,000,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.25	10 25	10.25	10.25	100
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0014	0 0016	0.0012	0 0014	67,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	5,157,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0 2	0.2	0.2	170,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.27	0.27	0 27	0.27	50,000
Empire East Land Inc	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	3,100,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	5,206,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	990,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1 8	1.8	20,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.185	0 185	0 185	0 185	200,000
Primex Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1 96	90,000
SM Development Corp.	1.06	1 06	1 06	1 06	2,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6 4	6.3	6.4	11,591,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0 19	0 19	0 19	0.19	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	22,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0048	0.0048	0 0048	0.0048	4,000,000
Omico Corp	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0 013	0.013	0.013	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	70,000,000
Sinophil Corp	0.026	0.026	0.026	0 026	100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	40,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc ..	...... 1,636,020...	...61,669,065 00
Comm'l & Ind'l .	219,056,430...	.. 280,496,745 00
PRO	. 26,628,000...	. 115,280,240 00
Mining..	. 31,100,000...	159 800 00
OIL .	72,140,000...	264,600 00
SME	...... 6,000..	6,120 00
GRAND TOTALS : .	.. 350 566 450 ..	.. 457,876,570 00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc .	438 11...	....DOWN 4.50
Comm'l & Ind'l .	.. 1,903.76...	.. DOWN 17 55
PRO	...... 592.53...	.......UP 2.41
Mining..	.. 1,235 30. .	..DOWN 1 94
OIL	... 1.38..	..... UP 0 03
SME	100 00. .	..UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	...... 813 87	.... UP 4.74
Composite...	.. 1,309.81	.DOWN 9.91

NO. OF ADVANCES: 24; NO. OF DECLINES: 30; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 42; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 96; NO. OF TRADES: 1,933

INTEREST RATES

September 19, 2003
MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 19-Sep-03	MART1 18-Sep-03
1 Month	6.2786	6.2661
3 Months	6.2857	6.2679
6 Months	6.9633	6.7633
1 Year	8.0786	8.0116
2 Years	9.3983	9.3867
3 Years	9.9567	9.9383
4 Years	10.3683	10.37
5 Years	10.6717	10.625
7 Years	11.35	11.3268
10 Years	11.63	11.58
20 Years	12.025	12.025
25 Years	12.2983	12.29

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

DISCLOSURES

GLOBE Telecom Inc. amended its by-laws and changed the schedule of its annual stockholders' meeting to any day in March of each year.

***

SOUTH China Resources Inc. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on Oct. 22, 10 a.m. at the William McKinley Room of Manila Polo Club, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 2 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

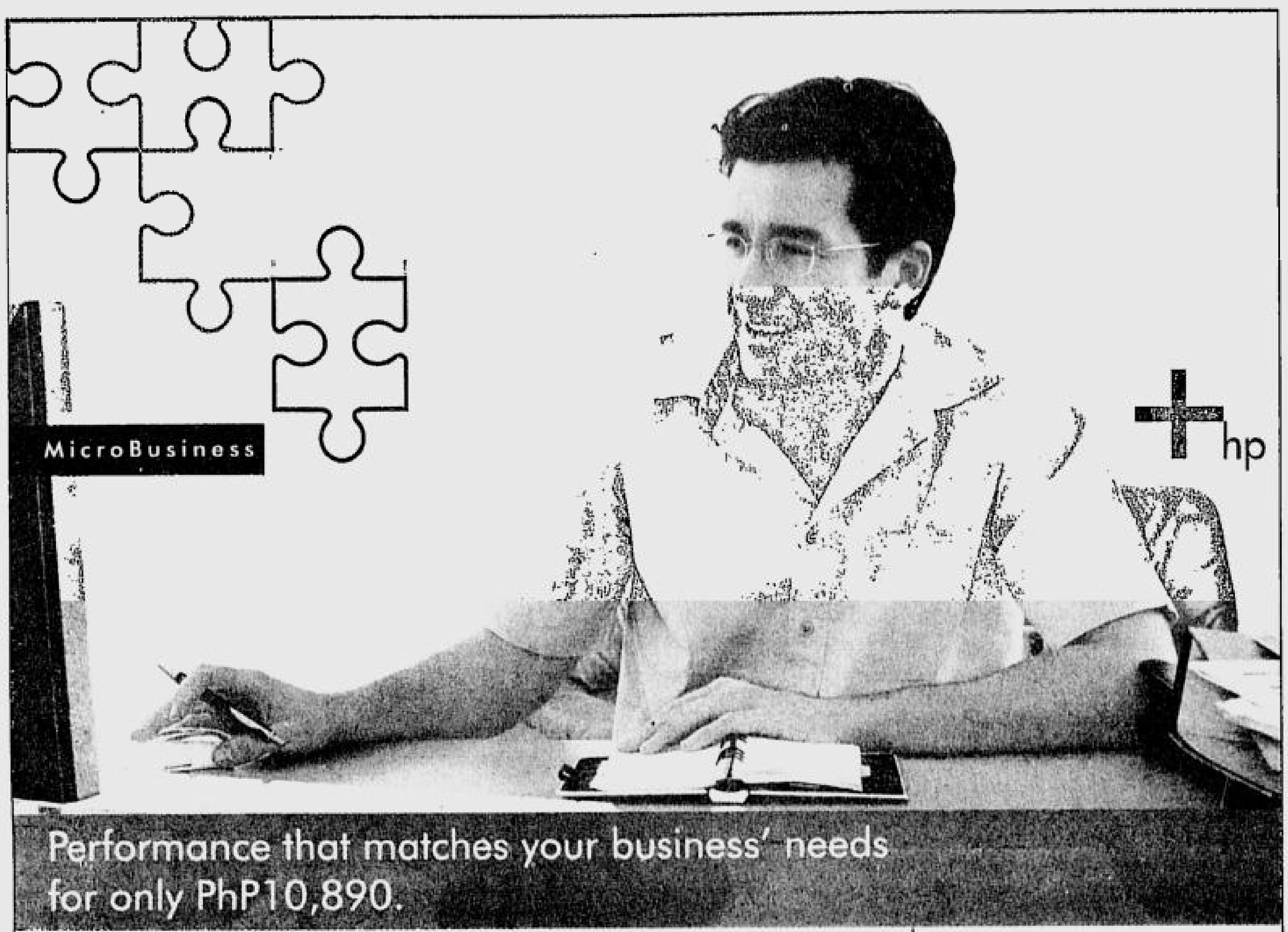
MANILA Jockey Club Inc. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on Nov. 25. Among the matters subject to the approval of stockholders are the declaration of a 20-percent stock dividend, increase in authorized capital stock from P300 million to P500 million, stock rights offering and transfer of non-core assets to a qualified company.

***

PRIMETOWN Property Group Inc. disclosed receiving an order from the Makati Regional Trial Court regarding the appointment of Jose Absalom Jocom Jr. as Primetown's rehabilitation receiver after Ariel Salvador Magno declined the position. Jocom has yet to signify his acceptance or refusal of the appointment.

***

VIVANT Corp. announced that it would accept proxies for its September 25 annual stockholders' meeting until Sept. 23. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***



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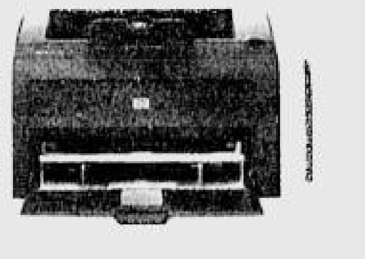
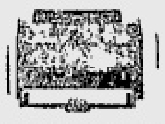
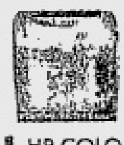


HP LASERJET 1010
PhP10,890
Up to 12 ppm (Letter/A4)
8MB RAM
600 dpi resolution with HP Resolution Enhancement technology (REt)
150-sheet main input tray
5,000 pages monthly duty cycle
USB port

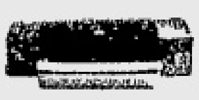


HP LASERJET 1015
PhP14,190
Up to 15/14 ppm (Letter/A4)
16MB RAM
Up to 1200 dpi effective output with HP Resolution Enhancement technology (REt)
150-sheet main input tray
Up to 7,000 pages monthly duty cycle
USB & Parallel ports



HP COLOR LASERJET 1500L
PhP46,690
Up to 16/4 ppm (black/colour)
16MB RAM
600 x 600 dpi, HP ImageREt 2400
125-sheet multipurpose tray
Up to 30,000 pages monthly duty cycle
USB Port

HP COLOR LASERJET 2500L
PhP58,290
Up to 16/4 ppm (black/colour)
64MB RAM (upgradeable to 256MB)
600 x 600 dpi, HP ImageREt 2400
125-sheet multipurpose tray
30,000 pages monthly duty cycle
USB & Parallel Ports



HP DESKJET 9650
PhP24,290
Borderless photo printing up to A3
Up to 20/15 ppm (black/colour)
16MB RAM
Up to 4800 optimized dpi with HP PhotoREt 4 technology
150-sheet main input tray
5,000 pages monthly duty cycle
USB & Parallel Ports

HP BUSINESS INKJET 1100D
PhP12,490
Up to 23/20 ppm (black/colour)
8MB RAM (upgradeable to 12MB)
Up to 4800 optimized dpi with HP PhotoREt 3 technology
150-sheet main input tray
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SWAP AGREEMENT

$200-M ADB lending facility OKd

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE ASIAN Development Bank has received the go-ahead from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Monetary Board to open a $200-million, 12-year peso lending facility that would give local companies access to long-term funds.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco told reporters that the facility would allow the Manila-based ADB to swap dollars for pesos with the government for lending to Philippine companies. The peso-denominated loans would have a maturity of 12 years.

The Monetary Board earlier approved a similar facility of the International Finance Corp. The investment arm of the World Bank said the lending facility would have an unlimited amount.

The IFC would swap the dollars with a foreign bank and use the peso proceeds to open a seven-year lending facility.

"The new lending schemes would allow local companies to borrow on a longer term at reasonable rates. It addresses the currency and maturity mismatch that were major factors leading to the Asian crisis," Tetangco said.

He said that during the Asian crisis, experts found out that two issues partly triggered the problem. One was a currency mismatch as local companies borrowed heavily in dollars, and the other was the maturity profile wherein many loans were short-term.

"The lending program would be good especially for infrastructure projects," the BSP deputy governor said.

Buenaventura explained that the ADB's swap arrangement with the national government would not entail a new loan.

He pointed out that since the government had borrowed substantially in pesos and would use some of the proceeds to pay maturing dollar loans, then the $200-million swap would help address some of the government's foreign exchange requirement without straining the GIR or the dollar spot market.

The country's external reserves stood at $16 billion as of end-August while the BOP deficit widened to $653 million during the same period.

The ADB and IFC are also exploring a tie-up with banks or asset managers to help take-out banks' bad loans and bridge the pricing gap that had slowed the sale of soured accounts and foreclosed assets, Buenaventura said.

Since the IFC and the ADB aspire for a more reasonable rate of return, then it could devise a formula with the asset managers to increase the price being offered to banks for the purchase of the non-performing loans.

The going rate for the special purpose vehicles is to ask banks to sell the bad loans and assets at a 70- to 80-percent discount. Banks, on the other hand, do not want to take big losses and have been trying to sell the NPLs at a rate inversely proportional to the offer of the asset managers.

7-month trade deficit widens to $1.767B

THE TRADE deficit ballooned in July as key electronics exports sagged while imports kept rising, putting more pressure on an economy already close to recession.

The trade deficit so far this year is nearly 12 times as large as the same period last year, raising concerns about the country's current account, economic analysts said.

But they said the figures were not all bad news, noting that a rise in electronics imports could signal rising demand for components needed in factories producing goods for export.

The July trade deficit of $265 million reversed a surplus of $33 million in the same month last year, the National Statistics Office said yesterday. July imports rose 1.3 percent from July 2002 while exports fell 7.9 percent.

The trade gap for the first seven months of the year hit $1.767 billion, way above the $152 million deficit recorded in the same period of 2002.

David Cohen, an economist at MMS/Standard & Poor's, said the sluggish exports reflected the state of the overall economy.

"But the fact that imports are holding up is a sign that general economic activity would pick up," he said.

The Philippines narrowly escaped a recession in the second quarter, when the economy grew just 0.1 percent from the first quarter. Exports make up about 40 percent of GDP.

Electronics account for about two-thirds of exports. Other key exports include textiles, clothing, coconut oil, furniture and tropical fruit. *Reuters*

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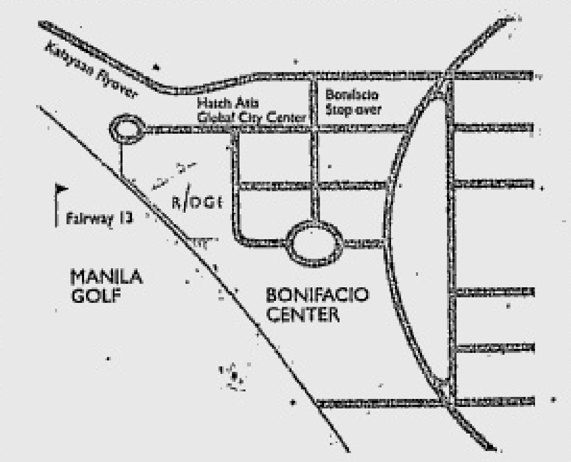

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Nasa to smash Galileo probe into Jupiter

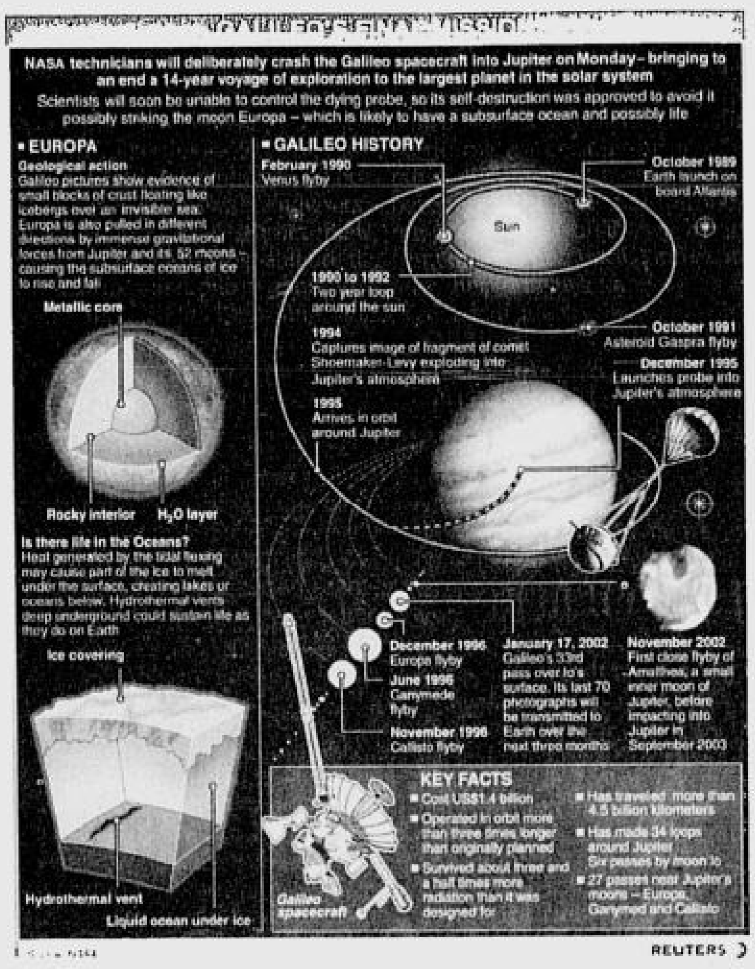
PASADENA, California—Nasa plans to crash its $1.5 billion Galileo spacecraft into Jupiter on Monday (Manila time) to make sure it doesn't accidentally contaminate the planet's ice-covered moon Europa with bacteria from Earth.

After Galileo's orbit carries it behind Jupiter at 1949 GMT Sunday (3:49 a.m. Monday in Manila), the aging probe will plunge into the planet's stormy atmosphere at a speed of nearly 173,770 kph. Its suicide dive comes at the end of its 35th orbit of the planet—far longer than the 11 orbits the spacecraft originally was planned to complete.

The heat generated as it streaks through the atmosphere will vaporize the nearly 1,350-kg Galileo and the untold millions of microbial stowaways lurking since its 1989 launch.

The crash will ensure Galileo doesn't hit Europa and spill bacteria onto the ice that caps its enormous oceans.

Europa, a planet-sized moon, is widely believed to have the most promising habitat for extraterrestrial life within the solar system. If Earth bugs were to gain a toehold on Europa, perhaps in pools of water warmed by radioactive plutonium the spacecraft uses to generate electricity, they could compromise future attempts to probe the moon for indigenous life.


NASA technicians will deliberately crash the Galileo spacecraft into Jupiter on Monday– bringing to an end a 14-year voyage of exploration to the largest planet in the solar system
Scientists will soon be unable to control the dying probe, so its self-destruction was approved to avoid it possibly striking the moon Europa – which is likely to have a subsurface ocean and possibly life
▪ EUROPA
Geological action
Galileo pictures show evidence of small blocks of crust floating like icebergs over an invisible sea. Europa is also pulled in different directions by immense gravitational forces from Jupiter and its 52 moons – causing the subsurface oceans of ice to rise and fall
Metallic core
Rocky interior
H₂O layer
Is there life in the Oceans?
Heat generated by the tidal flexing may cause part of the ice to melt under the surface, creating lakes or oceans below. Hydrothermal vents deep underground could sustain life as they do on Earth
Ice covering
Hydrothermal vent
Liquid ocean under ice
▪ GALILEO HISTORY
February 1990 Venus flyby
October 1989 Earth launch on board Atlantis
Sun
1990 to 1992 Two year loop around the sun
October 1991 Asteroid Gaspra flyby
1994 Captures image of fragment of comet Shoemaker-Levy exploding into Jupiter's atmosphere
December 1995 Launches probe into Jupiter's atmosphere
1995 Arrives in orbit around Jupiter
December 1996 Europa flyby
June 1996 Ganymede flyby
November 1996 Callisto flyby
January 17, 2002 Galileo's 33rd pass over Io's surface. Its last 70 photographs will be transmitted to Earth over the next three months
November 2002 First close flyby of Amalthea, a small inner moon of Jupiter, before impacting into Jupiter in September 2003
KEY FACTS
▪ Cost US$1.4 billion
▪ Operated in orbit more than three times longer than originally planned
▪ Survived about three and a half times more radiation than it was designed for
▪ Has traveled more than 4.5 billion kilometers
▪ Has made 34 loops around Jupiter
Six passes by moon Io
▪ 27 passes near Jupiter's moons – Europa, Ganymed and Callisto
Galileo spacecraft
REUTERS

DETAILS of the 14-year mission of Nasa's Galileo spacecraft.

"It seems like a good place where, potentially, you can have life and it also seems like a place where Earth life would find a nice place to live in. So why hit it?" said John Rummel, planetary protection officer for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Nasa typically scrubs its spacecraft clean of microbes to prevent what it calls the "forward contamination" of other places in the solar system. That wasn't done with Galileo, which Nasa originally intended to leave in orbit around Jupiter.

Years ago, however, the promise of Europa convinced Nasa to err on the side of caution and plans were made to destroy Galileo, which now is nearly out of the propellant that would allow it to trim its course. The concern is that the gravitational tug of Jupiter could alter the orbit of the spacecraft and cause it to hit Europa or another moon.

The intentional crash will be the first since 1999, when Nasa plowed the Lunar Prospector orbiter into the moon. In 1994, Nasa crashed the Magellan orbiter into Venus. Satellites routinely crash to Earth, as Nasa's Compton Gamma Ray Observatory did in 2000.

Recent research has revealed the tenacity of microbial life and its ability to resist extremes of temperature and radiation. Even though Galileo has been buffeted by both, its shielded innards likely harbor viable microbes.

"We in our infinite wisdom thought nothing could survive in those harsh environments, but we are learning every day about things that can," said Claudia Alexander, Galileo's seventh and likely last project manager at Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

The 14-year mission has been among Nasa's most successful, despite a litany of glitches. Its focus was to have been Jupiter itself, but the planet's quirky, diverse moons—including Io, the solar system's most volcanically active body—stole the spotlight. *AP*

Drug perindopril can reduce heart deaths, says study

By Charles E. Buban

A LANDMARK study has revealed that the use of the drug perindopril alongside current treatments could offer significant benefits for sufferers of coronary artery disease (CAD), reducing their risk of heart attacks and death.

CAD, which generally refers to the buildup of cholesterol in the inside layers of the arteries, is the most common form of heart disease and is one of the major causes of deaths worldwide.

"The news that an existing drug, in conjunction with current treatment, could offer help is encouraging. Hopefully it won't be too long before people can gain benefits from this discovery," said Philippine Lipid Society president Dr. Rody Sy during a forum last Tuesday where results of the study were presented to local journalists.

ACE inhibitor

The Europa (EUropean trial on Reduction Of cardiac events with Perindopril in stable coronary Artery disease) project is the first study to demonstrate the lifesaving benefits of perindopril in low-risk patients with stable CAD but no heart failure, and the largest study on secondary prevention in patients with stable coronary disease.

Perindopril is an angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor that is currently used by people with high blood pressure and heart failure and for treatment after heart attacks.

The Europa study revealed that the use of perindopril in addition to existing medication (such as beta blockers, aspirin and statins) showed that fewer patients died from cardiovascular causes or had heart attacks compared with those given placebo drugs.

After a follow-up period of an average of four years, researchers found out that there was a 39 percent reduction in heart failure, a 24 percent reduction in heart attacks and an 11 percent reduction in risk of death among those taking perindopril.

These benefits were seen in all patient groups, regardless of age, sex, presence of diabetes or a previous history of heart attack or hypertension.

Alarming incidence

"With thousands of people dying of a heart attack every year, this development highlights the importance of regular checkups so that any potential problem can be addressed and treatment can start early," said Sy.

The doctor said CAD is increasing at an alarming rate worldwide, mostly in countries with changing lifestyles.

Factors that can increase the risk of CAD include smoking, obesity and having a sedentary lifestyle.

The Europa project involved 12,218 CAD patients from 24 European countries.

The ACE inhibitor Coversyl (perindopril) was the drug used for the Europa project because of its 24-hour efficacy, blood-pressure control, cardiovascular anti-ischemic and anti-atherogenic properties, and because it is easy to use and is well-tolerated.

Patients were given 8 mg of Coversyl once daily in addition to their existing medication for an average of four years.

Results of the Europa study were first presented during the recent European Society of Cardiology Congress in Vienna, Austria.

Proud to be teachers

(Conclusion)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST Sept. 5, I was honored to respond on behalf of the 12 Metrobank Outstanding Teachers for 2003. We accepted this award on behalf of the unsung public and private school teachers of the land, whom we dub heroes in their own way. Here is the conclusion of my response:

These heroes exist. I know, for I have met one of them. Let us call her Zeny.

Zeny was a high school math teacher down south, and a scholar of the Department of Education. She never dreamed of setting foot on Ateneo, and when confronted by state-of-the-art computers and laboratories, she feared touching them at first, so awed was she by such display.

Zeny came from an impoverished place.

In our psychology of teaching class, we discussed Maslow's hierarchy of needs and what teachers could do to address them. But unlike in the textbook, we could not take the most basic needs for granted, for Zeny's students often came to school hungry and tired, having worked alongside their parents most of the night with nary a snack. How could they even concentrate on algebra?

In class when we harnessed the power of multimedia, Zeny would dutifully participate, but the most advanced equipment her school had was one microscope—kept behind hallowed glass panes in the principal's office—to be taken out only for the benefit of visitors.

Blackouts were frequent, and Zeny believed that even if computer donations would come (as they were promised), these would be useless unless electricity flow was unimpeded.

Worst of all, there would often be less than five math books for a class of 80 students. How could children learn without books?

Unrecognized good deeds

So Zeny did what she had to do. Out of her salary, she would pay for the xeroxing of exercises for the whole class. Out of what remained she would buy *pan de sal* and margarine for her starving students.

In a country where everything was publicized, where every construction project had the names of officials emblazoned on it and every building the names of donors, Zeny did her good work anonymously. Not even her own students knew that their snacks and practice sets came from her pocket.

I asked her how she could afford to do so.

"I am single," she smiled, "and my parents are no longer here. My siblings are married. I don't need a lot. How can I teach if my students are hungry and have no books?"

I wanted to write about Zeny in my column, but after some thought, she told me not to. Having such poor facilities would embarrass her school, and she didn't want to cause any trouble. She was also certain that hers were not the only heroic deeds, and that many teachers across the nation were creatively coping in their own ways.

I am sure she is right.

I promised Zeny not to reveal her real name or the name of her school, and I have kept that promise. But tonight, with outstanding teachers as the theme, how could we not honor her? This award is for you Zeny, and all other teachers like you.

Inspiration to do best

Our heartfelt thanks to the Metrobank Foundation and to the Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. itself, especially Chair George Ty who by making possible this recognition, has inspired and continues to inspire teachers to do their best. To the judges in the preliminary, semifinal and final rounds, who painstakingly pored over documents and patiently listened to what we had to say, thank you for making the process memorable, and I dare say, quite fun.

Our gratitude to our schools, mentors and colleagues. In my case, the Immaculate Conception Academy in elementary and high school, and now the institution in which I have spent half my life, the Ateneo de Manila, especially the mathematics and psychology community serendipitously enough represented here tonight by top officers of our school—Fr. Ben Nebres, S.J. and Dr. Miren Intal, who are not only my bosses but advisers and friends as well. Father Ben whose problem-solving abilities I learned from and put to good use during the semifinal teaching demo and Dr. Miren whose wholehearted encouragement supported me throughout this whole process.

I would also like to thank Dr. Jose Marasigan, Fr. Dan McNamara, Dr. Honey Carandang and the late Dr. Doreen Fernandez—all of them great teachers, great colleagues, great friends.

To our students, thank you and may you continue in your journey with us in critical thinking, perseverance and service to others. In return, we promise to be there for you, and to guide you the best we can.

Our never-ending thanks to our families and friends—my father William, my husband Smith, my brother Garrick, my sister Portia, my son Scott—whose sacrifices have made it possible for us to stay in a profession we love.

And to Almighty God, to You, as always, be the glory.

Nurturing every student

In return, all of us promise, to you and to ourselves, that we will continue to nurture every student we are privileged to be given, to guide them to discover and uncover their potential, to shape them as citizens our nation will be proud of. We recognize that to us much has been given, and from us much more is expected.

Is it fruitless to be "just a teacher"? Not according to the one whom I hold dearest in the world: my 5-year-old boy, who would introduce me to friends as, "My mommy is a teacher! I am so proud of Mommy!"

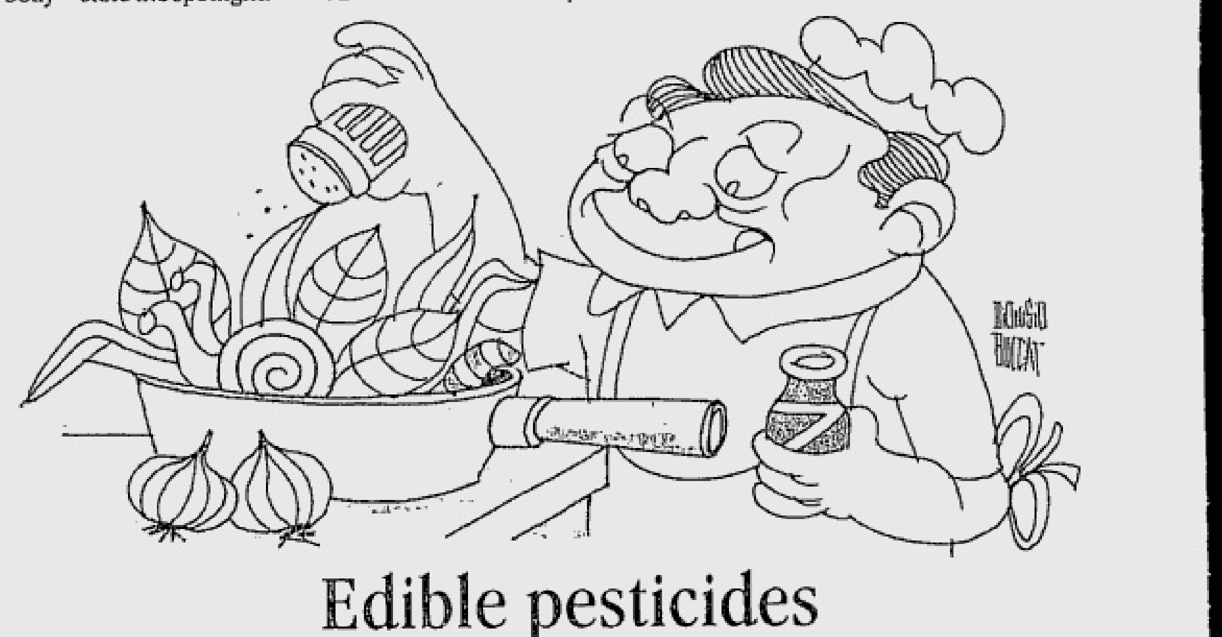
We are all proud—so proud and honored—to be teachers.

Earlier I confessed that I had never dreamed of becoming a teacher. That might not be totally true. My mother, Dr. Anita Ngo, graduated at the top of her class in UP medical school, and to the consternation of her batchmates, after doing volunteer work in PGH, she decided not to pursue a career and instead devoted her efforts to her family.

What a waste of talent, they said.

Sounds familiar?

But what everyone did not realize was that she was my first, and my best, teacher, and subconsciously, her example, her brilliance, her dedication throughout the formative decades of my life must have molded me in ways I never thought possible. Without my mother, I would not be in front of you now. Mom, I miss you a lot, but tonight, I know you are here. I dedicate my award to you.



Edible pesticides

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

WHAT do you get when you combine beer, garlic, black pepper and your yard full of plants and the pests that feed on them?

(a) A nice outdoor get-together

(b) A free dinner (useful practice for shows like "Fear Factor" or "Survivor," especially if the rumors are true and its Season 6 gets filmed in Siquijor)

(c) An environment-friendly way of keeping your plants healthy, happy and whole

Technically the correct answer is c, but I'm willing to accept (d) all of the above.

Based on two studies that have come out in the past week, it is now theoretically possible to make your yard pest-free by eating both the pests and the pesticides you used to dispose of them.

Think I'm kidding? A lot of people around the world would disagree with you, among them Ian Scott of the University of Ottawa in Canada and Dr. Gordon Port of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in England.

Pepper as pesticide

Let's start with Ian Scott, a doctoral student who won the Mary Perlmutter scholarship two years ago for his efforts to help encourage organic farming through pepper-based pesticides.

The problem with commercial pesticides is that they do more harm than good. They kill caterpillars, snails, bugs and all the evil things that lead to crop and plant death, but once released into the environment they end up poisoning people and animals as well.

But black pepper and peppers in general aren't toxic to humans, unless you have a death wish and decide to eat 20 habañero chili peppers at one sitting.

So how does black pepper act as an insecticide? The essential or volatile oil contains the alkaloid piperine, which has been shown to decrease activity in the central nervous system, to the point of paralysis and even death.

Put a little pepper dust around a plant's root system, and ants won't set up an aphid colony on it. Crushed peppers have also been effective in keeping rats away from stored grain.

One pesticide that's easy to prepare calls for a mixture of black pepper, garlic and onions. I don't know about you, but that sounds like a good base to a meal.

Garlic kills slugs

If you have a lot of garlic but are running low on pepper and onions, Dr. Gordon Port, a senior lecturer at the University of Newcastle's Biology Department who has dedicated much of his time and effort toward developing an effective molluscicide (snail-killer), suggests combining crushed garlic with water and spraying the mixture on plants.

In a paper published in this month's issue of Crop Protection, Dr. Port and his colleagues tested the efficacy of several pesticides containing copper, garlic and ureaformaldehyde (urea leaves the body in urine and formaldehyde is used to embalm the dead).

The researchers found that an extract of garlic oil placed around a plant prevents slugs and snails from eating it.

Dr. Port notes that if a snail manages to find its way into the garlic oil area, a chemical reaction is triggered, causing an overproduction of the slimy mucus that snails use to move around. The snail gets dehydrated and dies in a few hours.

I can imagine a snail sliming away from the garlic oil as fast as it can while the oil oozes slowly after it. Talk about the ultimate slow-motion action sequence.

Beer and snails

If the sight of a snail slowly dying disturbs the tranquil image your yard projects, try using beer as a pesticide.

To quote Dr. Port, "We have found in our tests that if you put a pot of beer and a pot of water out for slugs, they will go for each with equal frequency. But they never climb out of the pot of beer again."

I think that would make a great "Fear Factor" episode: get rid of garden pests by eating them all. Beer-infused snails would be tasty in some garlic oil and black pepper, don't you think? I wouldn't drink the beer used as bait though.

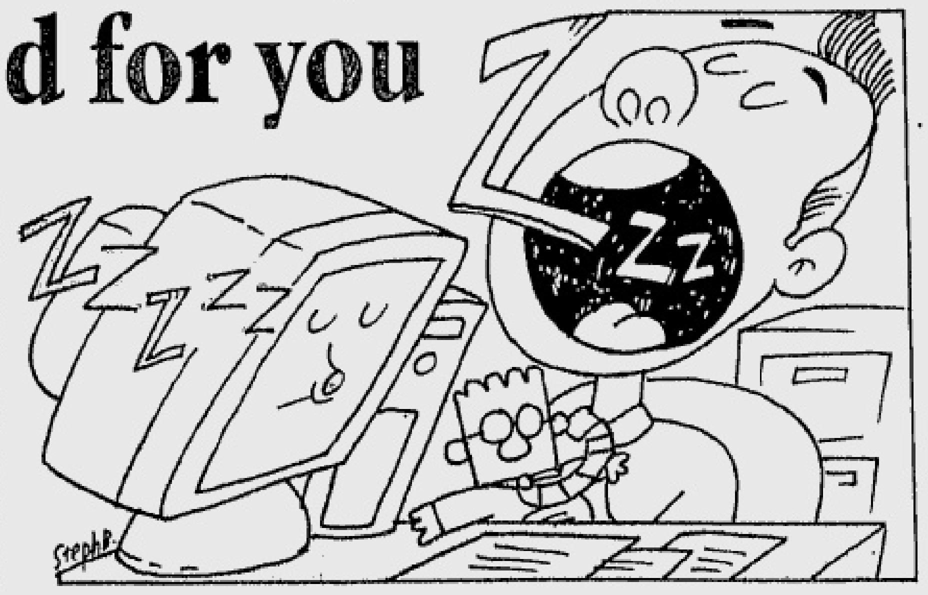
What have we learned today?

Pepper and garlic are good, but they can also kill, which only goes to show that one really can have too much of a good thing, which makes it bad. Am I confusing you? Probably.

Still, with the emphasis on all-natural, pesticide-free, organic food today, it's a wonder people aren't taking more advantage of the alternative uses of foods like pepper, garlic, onions, ginger and calamansi. Not only will your entire yard smell good, but it'll also look pretty while insects and pests die.

Sleep experts say workplace zzz's good for you

By Charles E. Buban



FILIPINO workers could certainly use the extra sleep.

Sleep experts are now insisting that there are a lot of good reasons to take workplace napping seriously.

"A short nap doesn't make up for lack of sleep, but it can be tremendously helpful. A 15- to 45-minute snooze can rejuvenate an exhausted worker," said Mercy Antoinette Gappi, president of the Philippine Society of Sleep Medicine Inc.

"However, if you're not a napper—you're not used to an afternoon *siesta*—you should not start taking one and instead save it at night when it counts most," she added.

During a sleeplessness awareness forum last Tuesday organized by the PSSM and Sanofi Synthelabo Philippines, sleep experts said people deprived of sleep lose energy, become quick-tempered, lose concentration and make mistakes, which eventually translates into poor work performance and loss of productivity.

"Sleeplessness, apart from other reasons, contributed to almost every high-profile accident in recent memory—from the grounding of the Exxon Valdez to the Chernobyl and Three Mile Island nuclear accidents," said Dr. Rolando dela Eva of the Comprehensive Sleep Disorders Center at St. Luke's Medical Center.

Gappi, however, cautioned would-be snoozers to take a nap only during their break.

"Do not sleep on the job; there are very few companies that openly encourage napping. There's still that impression that if you take a nap, you're lazy," she said.

Factors affecting sleep

Gappi said technology and industrialization are the biggest factors why people are not getting enough sleep nowadays.

"We live in a fast-paced, hi-tech world that operates 24 hours a day. Policemen, doctors, nurses, laborers, media personnel, these people are part of today's modern work force who are required to work rotating shifts," Gappi said.

Then there's television, radio and movie channels attracting their attention when they go home, she noted.

People also sacrifice sleep to catch up on work or pursue leisure activities like surfing the Internet, Gappi said.

If you're serious about getting more sleep, Dr. Ruby Manalastas of the PSSM gave the following suggestions:

- Decide how many hours of sleep is right for you. The usual 7.5 to 8 hours sleep may not apply to all. As long as you can be fully alert the whole day, then you are having a good night's sleep.
- Create a comfortable sleep environment, which means everything from a firm mattress to good air circulation to absence of light and noise.
- Don't try to fall asleep on a full or empty stomach. Cut back on fluids.
- Get some exercise. Physical activity promotes sleep but do it 4 to 6 hours before bedtime.
- Don't drink alcohol or caffeinated drinks (coffee, soft drinks) before bedtime and stub out that cigarette.
- Establish a bedtime ritual like going to bed at the same time each night.
- Don't take your problems to bed with you.

Myths on weight loss

By Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua
Contributor

LITONJUA

MANY people are guilty of practicing myths about dieting without even considering whether they are true or merely hearsay. Commonly subscribed to by people with weight problems, these myths actually promise no weight loss, and you only waste your time and effort on unproductive efforts. Before abiding by a dietary regimen, it would be wise to first know and understand how it will benefit you and your body, and see if it does allow you to shed unwanted pounds. Allow these information and tips to put an end to some weight-loss myths and enlighten you on having a proper and effective diet.

Myth: Skip meals, breakfast for example, to lose weight.

Fact: Your body needs a certain amount of calories and nutrients each day for it to function properly. By skipping meals during the day, or even having an irregular eating habit, you will tend to make up for the hunger later on by consuming bigger meals and worse, meals containing insufficient amounts of nutrients, such as chips and junk food. Research suggest that people who miss breakfast tend to weigh heavier than those who catch up on a nutritious first meal. Besides, while asleep, our body continues to burn nutrients to enable systems to function, thus it is important to refuel our bodies each morning for it to be in its prime throughout the day.

Myth: Fad diets allow for permanent weight loss.

Fact: They may at first but not for long as you continue to deprive yourself of food that should provide you with nutrients your body needs. Stringently sticking to a fad diet does not only prove to be unhealthy but it also raises the possibility of you regaining the pounds you lose once you get tired of eating the same thing over and over again.

Studies show that eating healthy and exercising more are still the best ways to lose weight. By improving your eating and exercise habits, you develop a better lifestyle and on top of that, reduce the risk of developing heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes, to name a few.

Myth: Avoid starchy food for they are fattening.

Fact: Not necessarily. Being a good source of energy for the body, starch should be included in your diet. In fact, foods high in starch can be low in fat and calories. They only become high in fat and calories when eaten with rich sauces, oils or other high-fat toppings like butter, sour cream and mayonnaise, or when eaten in large amounts. Go for starchy foods that are high in fiber, like whole grains, beans and peas.

Myth: Natural or herbal weight-loss products are not effective.

Fact: The global market has already seen a number of medications that promise to help you lose weight. Some indeed do when coupled with a proper diet and regular exercise; others, on the other hand, help but sadly in the wrong manner. A product that claims to be "natural" or "herbal" is not necessarily safe. For instance, some products work in your central nervous system by suppressing your appetite, thus not urging you to grab a bite. This is unsafe as it may trigger problems in your system. Xenical, in contrast, acts in your gastrointestinal tract by confining the absorption of fats to a limited amount. It is thus safe and not a threat to your health as false reports say. This blue capsule is a prescribed drug that has caught the interest of thousands of European and American doctors.

As the saying goes, the truth will set you free. Indeed, it will. The more you understand the issue, the more you become powerful and involved in directing your life. Much like in nutrition and dieting, the further your understanding of these topics are, the better you are in tune with your body, your health and your overall well being.

(Dr. Litonjua started making his mark in medical history with his remarkable contributions to a number of organizations, including the Philippine Center for Diabetes Education Foundation and the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism. To date, he continues to do so as the president of the Philippine Association for the Study of Obesity and Overweight.—CDM)

Botox may help reduce migraines

LONDON—Botox injections, already hugely popular for removing wrinkles, can also give long-term relief from migraine, according to results of a clinical study released on Tuesday.

Ninan Mathew, director of the Houston Headache Clinic, said the findings suggested Botox—a purified form of the toxin that causes botulism food poisoning—could one day become a routine therapy for people with frequent, intractable migraine.

Mathew told the Congress of the International Headache Society in Rome that 208 patients given Botox over three years had experienced a significant reduction in both the severity and frequency of headaches.

The drug also seemed to alter disease progression.

"Botox is unlike other available migraine therapies, in that it appears to positively modify the course of the disorder—that is, even after treatment stopped, the intensity and frequency of the patients' migraines did not return to baseline," Mathew said.

After a single course of treatment with Botox, there was an average reduction in headache severity from 83.8 on the migraine scale, ranking as "severe disability," to 27.2, or "mild disability."

Patients also experienced half the number of headache days they had at the start of the trial three months later and needed only one-quarter of their previous monthly doses of headache pills.

The exact mechanism of action is not fully understood but Mathew said Botox appeared to alter the working of pain-carrying neurotransmitters and relaxing muscles.

Mathew's research was sponsored by Allergan Inc., the maker of Botox. The US firm is currently conducting pivotal trials which, if successful, will allow it to file next year for US regulatory approval to use the drug for migraine. *Reuters*

Science journalism award finalists bared

TWELVE articles selected among thousands of entries on subjects related to science and technology will vie for top honors at the annual Science and Technology Journalism Awards on Sept. 26.

Principal sponsors of the Award are the Philippine Press Institute and Philippine Geothermal Inc., in partnership with the National Power Corp.

The following are the finalists: "Unregulated fishpen operations lead to mess" by Alecks Pabico (Malaya, Philippine Star, Manila Times, Today, Cebu Daily News); "Coconut-based carbon may be the cure for the ailing RP coco industry" by Rizal Raoul Reyes (Today); "Mothers who don't breastfeed: Infants deprived of nutrition, intelligence" by Tessa Salazar (Philippine Daily Inquirer); "Sooty air poses risk to health of millions of Filipinos" by Ching Sales (Today); "ICT: Ray of light or labor rut?" by Lakambini Sitoy, Villy Cabuag and Ruth F. Yap (Manila Times);

"What Filipinos ought to be eating" and "The healing herb" by Marilyn Parra (Manila Times); "Toxic legacy" by Zelda Soriano (PCIJ's I-magazine); "Band-aid on gaping wounds" by Jet Damazo (Newsbreak); "The Malagos Eagle Center: A nursery to endangered Philippine Eagles" by Patricia Adversario (Manila Times); "Experts' warning: Deadly parasites in your favorite food" by Tessa Salazar (Philippine Daily Inquirer); and "Medicines that kill" by Chay Florentino-Hofileña (Newsbreak).

This year's board of judges is chaired by Ronaldo A. Romero, PPI board treasurer and director of the BusinessWorld Publishing Corp. The other members are Dr. Roldan M. Cardona (College of Development Communication, University of the Philippines-Los Baños), Dr. Paz H. Diaz (College of Mass Communication, University of the Philippines-Diliman), Erlinda B. Bolido (World Resources Institute and Mirror), and Richard P. Burgos (IBM Philippines).

SCISCOPE

Catch up on your kid's slow growth

WHEN your 4-year-old kid starts his preschool, you can expect rapid development in many of his skills. Being among classmates makes him more excited, more playful and hyperactive. This new-found busyness makes everything else less important, even his regular meals. While your child is living in the fast lane of school life, one aspect seems to be in slow motion—his weight gain.

Here are some facts to help you catch up on what you need to know about your child's growth.

Growth faltering, or stunted growth, occurs when a child's growth slows down so his weight and height fall below normal levels for his age. Some children aged 1 to 10 years experience growth faltering. Studies say half of children below 5 years old may experience growth faltering.

Growth faltering may happen if your child is a picky eater, skips healthy meals or has no appetite due to illness. All these result in a child's lack of essential nutrients his body needs to grow at a rate appropriate to his age. Deficiencies in vitamins and minerals also account for the noticeable lag in a child's growth.

Catch-up growth will enable your child to grow in height and weight faster than usual, especially after experiencing growth faltering. It therefore helps your child achieve the physical growth normal for his age. This should be done since some children fail to gain weight or grow in height with normal feeding. So crucial is catch-up growth, pediatricians recommend Pediasure to support every parent's effort to succeed in nurturing their children's growth.

Pediasure is a complete, balanced nutritional supplement especially formulated for the growing years of children aged 1 to 10. It is clinically proven to provide the child's body with essential nutrients for growth as well as immunity that can reduce illness.

Welcoming a price rollback with misgivings

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

A GROUP of doctor-friends and I had an animated discussion recently on the recent price rollback by pharmaceutical giant Merck Sharpe & Dohme (MSD) of Zocor, its life-extending drug. The rollback, something like 37 to 57 percent, is the first of its magnitude in recallable history in the pharmaceutical industry.

MEDICAL FILES

Several health secretaries and even Philippine presidents have previously appealed to drug companies to lower their prices and make medicines more affordable, but pharmaceutical companies have always reasoned out that it would be impossible to do so due to a litany of reasons, including the high cost of research for innovative products.

I was convinced of the arguments they gave. The government, of course, could not do anything but appeal to their sense of social responsibility.

MSD, in a statement, said it decided to roll back the price of Zocor because of its commitment to improve public access to medicines.

Its media director e-mailed me a 1950 quote from the company's founder, George W. Merck: "We try to remember that medicine is for the patient...How can we bring the best of medicine to each and every person? We cannot rest 'til the way has been found, with our help, to bring our finest achievements to everyone."

'Why only now?'

This is laudable, and the senior Merck should be beaming with pride at the decision of his local executives.

But not a few doctors and patients were prompted to ask: after all these years, why only now? Was the rollback made because Zocor's market share was being significantly eroded by a local company's introduction of another brand of simvastatin, which was 50 percent cheaper than Zocor prior to the rollback? Why does it not roll back the prices of its other products to prove that the decision was not competition-driven, but really because of its commitment to make medicines more accessible to the patients who need them?

The doctors would have appreciated MSD's honesty if it cited the stiff competition offered by the lower-priced brand, rather than embellishing the price rollback with lofty words.

To one cardiologist, this was even insulting the intelligence of doctors and patients, and smacked of *kaplastikan* (insincerity).

One patient, instead of feeling elated upon learning of the rollback, was dismayed and calculated the money he would have saved had Zocor been reasonably priced from the start.

"I could have probably sent my son to medical school," he said.

HAaaY SalaMAT!
StephB.

My sister and brother-in-law, who had been maintained on the drug for several years, also expressed similar misgivings.

Other products, too

I join the doctors and patients who are challenging MSD to prove its sincerity by also reducing the prices of their other medicines, including products not being threatened by competitors. It has many good and life-saving, but inaccessibly expensive, medicines such as Aggrastat, used in patients with heart attack which sell for P10,000 per ampule.

MSD's move is heaven-sent for patients, although from the corporate perspective many believe it's a big blunder which could impact significantly on its credibility, and could put the entire pharmaceutical industry under serious scrutiny. If MSD could afford a 37 to 57 percent price rollback for one product, many sectors will pressure it and other companies to do the same for all products.

MSD and the entire industry will have a lot of explaining to do to justify the present prices of their products. What some call as MSD's panic-botton reaction might just turn out to be the big break for a reduction in drug prices that people have been waiting for. MSD has provided them a big argument on the feasibility of further reducing drug prices, particularly of essential or life-saving medications.

Dayrit, Roxas vindicated

This development vindicates Secretaries Manolet Dayrit and Mar Roxas, and I could almost hear them chorusing: "*Pwede naman palang murahan ang gamot kung gugustuhin* (They can lower the prices of medicines if they wanted to)."

Time and again, the two have been persuading pharmaceutical companies to reduce their prices. Secretary Roxas even initiated a parallel importation of commonly prescribed medicines from India and other countries where they are priced much cheaper.

I'm not in favor of parallel importation, and if MSD and other companies will reduce their drug prices, I'm sure Secretary Roxas will drop the plan to expand parallel importation.

In fairness though to the multinational pharmaceutical companies, they plow back part of their profits to the patients by subsidizing many activities of professional medical organizations—such as public education, research and continuing medical education for doctors—to keep them updated on new trends in the treatment of various diseases. These projects redound to the benefit of patients.

Many companies also have lofty charitable projects that reflect their corporate social responsibility. Offhand, I'm personally aware of the charitable projects of Boehringer Ingelheim, Pfizer, Unilab, Therapharma, Takeda, Astra, Glaxo Smith Kline, Novartis, Aventis, Bayer, MSD and many others.

I'm sure a happy compromise at pricing can be arrived at. No one can begrudge the pharmaceutical companies of making a profit, as long as it's reasonable.

Practically all the doctors I've talked to were willing to cooperate with the pharmaceutical industry so all the sectors—patients, doctors and drug companies—could help each other in making drugs affordable.

We hope to see the day when it cannot be said that a Filipino did not get well from his illness because he could not afford to buy his medicines.

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Gov't vows to keep budget deficit in check

BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin yesterday vowed the government would swiftly cut spending to bring the fiscal situation under control if the budget deficit exceeded its ceilings.

Boncodin also downplayed an announcement Thursday that the deficit in August had risen to P18 billion, more than double the limit set for the period.

"Now, it is time to loosen our (purse) strings but if there is any danger at all that the deficit (target) is going to be breached, then I have no qualms in saying that expenditures can be held back," Boncodin said in a television interview.

Boncodin said the government continued to "impose a 15 percent reserve on its expenditures." "I'm not going to release that (reserve) until we are sure the revenues are going to perform better."

She said the deficit for January-August was P114.5 billion, still within the target of P127.5 billion.

"I am surprised by the reaction of the so-called overshooting" of the ceiling, she said, adding the government had deliberately saved money in the early part of the year so it could spend more later.

"Our expenditures are very much on track in terms of our program. The start of (increased) expenditures in August was something that was very deliberate on our part."

She stressed most of this was going to pay government obligations in rural areas which should boost growth in those regions. *AFP*

BSP lowers export growth, current account surplus targets

By Clarissa S. Batino

BLAMING weak export receipts in the first seven months, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has announced the country would not meet its target of a 5-percent growth in exports and a $2.356-billion surplus in the current account this year.

The central bank said the emerging current account surplus would only be about $1.7 billion based on a growing consensus that exports would only grow by 3 percent for the whole year.

In the first semester, the surplus from external payments stood at only $868 million or 58 percent lower than $2.08 billion a year ago.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the central bank would continue to firm up the external payments forecast this year and next. For the meantime, the BSP kept its $1.13-billion deficit outlook this year for the balance of payments.

"Once we have finalized the numbers, we can work on the 2004 figures. We are still waiting for more feedback as to whether there would be a global recovery that would help improve our exports next year," BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Tetangco added that higher overseas workers' remittance should offset sluggish dollar inflow from trade. From a flat growth in offshore remittance, the BSP is now looking at a 6-percent increase from about $7 billion last year.

Buenaventura pointed out, however, that the absence of foreign direct investments, which stood at only $10 million in the first half, also affected dollar inflow. For the whole year, the central bank is expecting only $100 million in foreign direct investments against an original forecast of $500 million.

The BSP is targeting a $2-billion current account surplus and $1.2-billion BOP surplus in 2004.

The current account and BOP targets are important in drawing up the BSP's defense of the peso. A declining dollar inflow puts pressure on the country's external reserves and, consequently, adversely affects the peso.

While exporters continued to be optimistic that the 5-percent export growth could be achieved, Buenaventura said the BSP chose to be conservative.

Export receipts in July contracted by 7.9 percent to $2.97 billion from a year ago while the seven-month growth in shipments stood at only 0.5 percent to $20.04 billion.

A trade deficit of $1.309 billion from January to June against a trade surplus of $116 million in the same period last year dragged down the current account surplus despite a growing inflow from Filipino offshore workers.

Breaktime . . .

From page B2

Aside from the weather, his cute administration also blames other things such as the SARS, the war in Iraq, and the global financial crisis.

Notice that those factors are beyond this cute administration's control. Gosh, they are beyond any human being's control.

The rising unemployment, therefore, is none of this cute administration's fault.

To all those millions of jobless, all those working without pay, I say to you it's all just bad luck, okay?

THIS cute administration blames the weather, particularly the El Niño phenomenon, because the official data showed that only the farm sector posted an increase in jobless.

On the other hand, the number of jobs in the industry and the service sectors went up by more than half a million.

Based on the increase in the number of jobs in the industry and the service sectors, according to some government economists, "conditions actually improved."

The jobless already went up by half a million—half a million human beings. And our government wants us to believe that it is "actually" an improvement. Wow!

* * *

NOW, if the number of jobs in the industry and the service sectors, er, "actually" increased, how many of those jobs fall under the category of UNDER-employed?

If I remember correctly, in recent history, the number of jobs in those sectors always goes up. It never ever went down. There must be a reason.

One explanation I heard in business is, well, our NSO counts the new jobs which are created, but it does not deduct the old jobs which were lost due to, say, globalization.

* * *

ANYWAY, as the official line of data analysis goes, the farm sector accounts for most of the jobless because of the El Niño and the typhoons.

But how can our government tell that a certain guy, who happens to be jobless, must fall under the category of farm worker?

Why is he not a jobless factory worker, for instance, or even a jobless corporate executive, or for that matter, a jobless public official?

You see, a huge part of the farm sector hardly keeps any record, unlike the industry and the service sectors, which file volumes of reports to government offices.

How the government can count the jobless in the loose farm sector, and thus put the blame on the weather, is an endless source of wonder to professional statisticians.

* * *

STILL, the last time I checked, we have always been visited by strong typhoons and El Niño, even before Malakas and Maganda could start our population explosion.

Good or bad, the weather is no excuse for a miserable record in job creation. The whole world deals with the weather. It's not all sunny and bright for the rest of the world.

The point is, we must invest to modernize our farm sector. For this, we are only paying lip service.

In the national budget, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agrarian Reform, both at the frontline of farming, do not exactly enjoy high priority.

* * *

ONE piece of good news is the first-class leadership we have in those two departments. Their heads try to make do with what they have.

Over at the DAR, Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan is laying down the groundwork for some serious funding. You know—the Marcos millions in Switzerland.

That is the money which the Supreme Court forfeited in our favor, meaning, against the foundations fronting for the Marcos family.

It amounts to P38 billion. Some P30 billion of it goes to DAR. Just imagine what P30 billion can do to the farm sector!

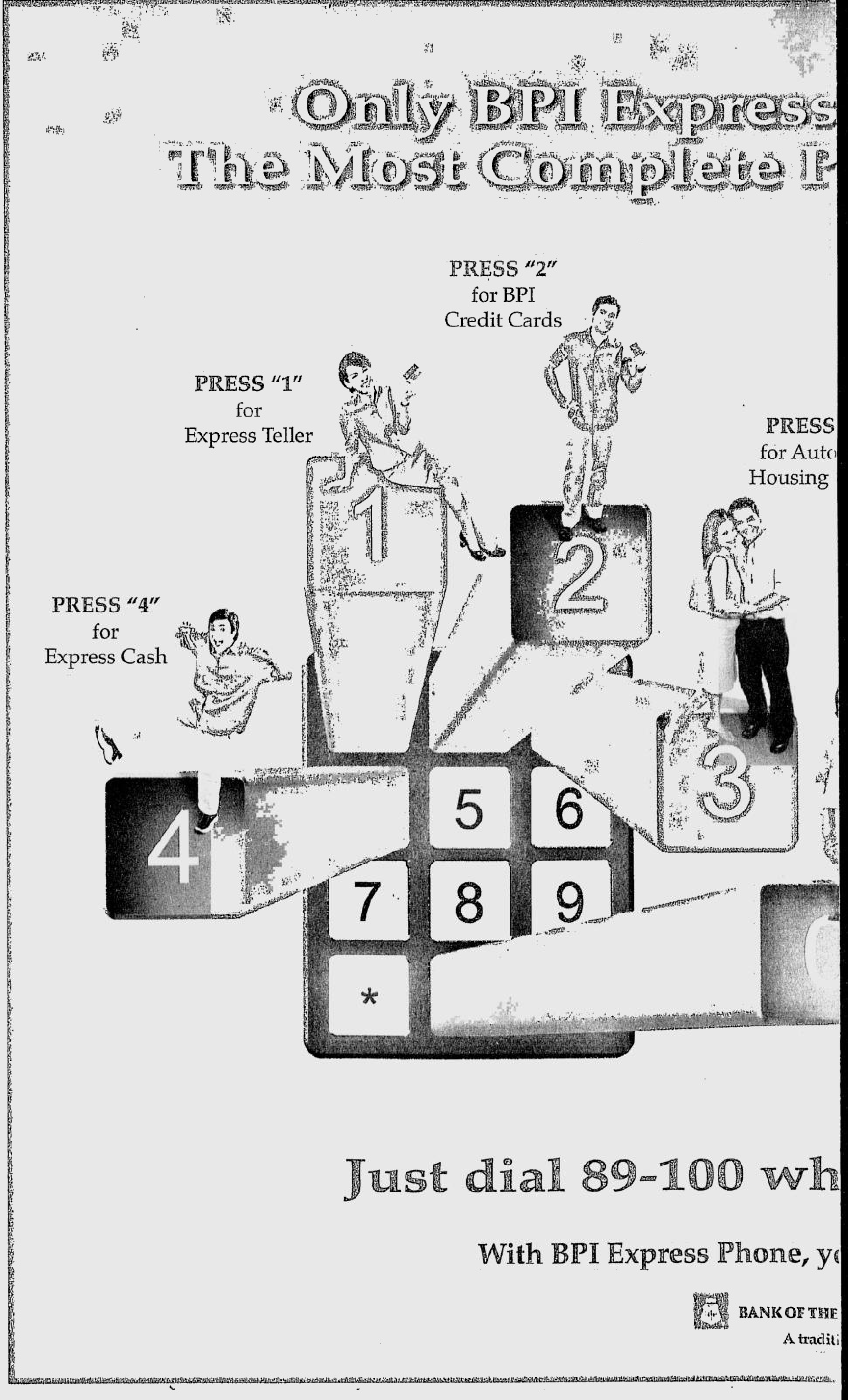
* * *

OUR biggest problem in the agrarian reform program is not the land ownership. It is the support system for the farms.

Farmers may have the land, sure, but they can't make it productive. Or even if they can make it productive, they cannot sell their produce.

Pagdanganan does want to set aside P22 billion of the Marcos money for farm support systems.

That 17-year-old program called Carp never had that kind of funding before for any support system program. Imagine what it can do! For one, maybe we will not blame the weather anymore.



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LG.Philips defers IPO

SEOUL—LG.Philips LCD, a joint venture between South Korea's LG Electronics Inc. and Dutch Philips Electronics NV, is set to delay a planned $1-billion initial public offering to early 2004, a source said.

LG.Philips LCD, the world's largest maker of liquid crystal display (LCD) panels used for computers and televisions, had previously aimed to list shares both on the Korea Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange this year.

The funds raised in the IPO will be used to help pay for a $2.6-billion investment in new flat screen production lines in South Korea ahead of an expected boom in demand for flat screen televisions.

"LG.Philips LCD had originally planned to go public this year but the plan is likely to be delayed to early next year as its top shareholders want more time to assess the value of the company," a source close to the deal said.

"Its shareholders want to take more time as they bet bullish equities market conditions will continue, while improving operations also have eased the need for fresh funding," the source said, estimating the value of the company would top $6 billion.

LG.Philips has a 22-percent share of the global market for LCD displays for computers and televisions, ahead of South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. on 19 percent and Taiwan's AU Optronics Corp. on 12 percent.

LG.Philips is one of the two 50-50 display joint ventures between South Korea's top home appliances maker LG and Europe's top electronics firm Philips.

Morgan Stanley, UBS Ag and South Korea's Dongwon Securities are lead managers for the IPO. *Reuters*

Finance chiefs to tackle Iraq reconstruction, terror funds

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Global economic leaders will tackle rebuilding Iraq and cutting off terror funds at a money summit here, and an official said yesterday the World Bank would push to narrow the gap between rich and poor nations that came into sharp focus as recent trade talks collapsed.

Finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Eight leading economies were expected to discuss this Saturday concerns about the value of China's currency—viewed by many as too low against the US dollar as China's huge trade surplus continues to grow.

As the top finance leaders hold their first such high-powered meeting in an Arab country over the next several days, World Bank President James Wolfensohn will urge a stronger commitment to giving developing nations better opportunities to catch up with the developed countries, a bank official said.

Wolfensohn and International Monetary Fund Managing Director Horst Kohler were scheduled to meet with reporters later Friday, ahead of next week's annual meetings of both banks.

One focus of the money summit will be on rebuilding Iraq after the US-led war that toppled Saddam Hussein, although good estimates for the costs aren't yet available.

Further, the failure a week ago of World Trade Organization talks in Cancun, Mexico, highlighted that developing nations are banding together and demanding better deals from the wealthy West in the globalized economy, the World Bank official said.

Wolfensohn will be lobbying for ways to reduce the imbalances, the official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The IMF and the G8 finance ministers, including US Treasury Secretary John Snow, see the global economy poised for its best growth since the 2001 recession, although some scattered problems—including the fast-growing US budget deficit—could hinder the advance, according to bank forecasts.

New growth will also be affected by the less secure world that emerged after the Sept. 11 terror attacks and subsequent US-led invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, IMF chief economist Kenneth Rogoff said Thursday. Rogoff cautioned that "this rise in underlying geopolitical uncertainties" could rein in economic growth, albeit slightly, over the next 20 years.

Touring the region en route to Dubai, Snow said Friday in Islamabad that Pakistan has made "enormous strides" in choking off terrorism funding by cracking down on money laundering and regulating the "hawala" fund-transfer system that sends money around the world with little documentation.

The G8 ministers are expected to reiterate their commitment to choking off terror funding in a communique to be issued after their meeting here Saturday. A key way forward, bank officials said Friday, will be creating more jobs in the Middle East, where unemployment remains chronic in many countries.

The G8 ministers were working on a statement that also would pledge to "strengthen the dialogue with other major economic areas to promote a smooth adjustment of international imbalances based on market mechanisms," an apparent reference to the Chinese yuan, according to a draft seen by the AP.

Beijing has faced growing calls to let the yuan, also known as the renminbi, or "people's money," appreciate, which might alleviate the threats posed by China's burgeoning trade surplus, but the Chinese leadership has thus far balked at any such commitments. *AP*.

Japan trade negotiating body to be formed

TOKYO—Japan should create a powerful negotiating body similar to the US Trade Representative's office (USTR) in order to cope with increasingly complex global trade talks, Trade Minister Takeo Hiranuma said yesterday.

The remark comes on the heels of last week's ill-fated World Trade Organization (WTO) talks in Cancun, Mexico, which broke down after rich and poor nations failed to bridge deep divisions over issues ranging from farm subsidies to reducing red tape.

Japan—represented by Hiranuma, Agriculture Minister Yoshiyuki Kamei and Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi—was in a particularly awkward position as its economy stands to benefit from global free trade but its politically powerful farmers are opposed to tariff cuts on agricultural imports, especially rice.

"To have three ministers going out there (to WTO) might be one idea, but it is a forum where different national interests of 146 countries clash," Hiranuma said.

"From such a perspective, I think Japan should have a single highly empowered organization that has experienced staff. Trade policy in the 21st century must be flexible and rational," Hiranuma said.

With such a body, Japan's trade negotiations, often complicated by the farm sector's desire to protect domestic producers, could be more streamlined.

Hiranuma said he spoke to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi about the idea on Thursday, although the premier did not comment on it.

Hiranuma, 64, who is Japan's longest-serving trade minister and proudly told reporters it was his 1,173rd day in office and that he has attended 296 Cabinet meetings, said he did not expect to be reappointed when the Cabinet is reshuffled next week.

"I have worked hard for a very long time. I don't think I will be reappointed," he said.

Koizumi is widely expected to win the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's leadership election on Saturday, which effectively determines who is prime minister. He is then expected to make big changes to his Cabinet lineup, which has been almost unchanged during his 2-½ years in office.

Hiranuma became trade minister in the previous administration, and has experienced a myriad of trade rows.

Besides the WTO fiasco, he oversaw a dispute over US steel import sanctions last year in which Japan and the European Union formed a united front.

He was also in charge when Japan imposed so-called "safeguard measures" against imports of shiitake mushrooms and leeks, angering China and prompting it to take countermeasures against Japanese industrial products.

Hiranuma said Japan, with its economy so reliant on both exports of its products and imports of raw material, must step up its efforts to promote free trade, and that the failure of Cancun talks was not the end of the WTO.

At the same time, bilateral and regional free-trade agreements (FTAs) are becoming crucial, he added.

Japan has so far only signed an FTA with Singapore. But Hiranuma said steady progress was being made on free trade talks with Mexico, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and South Korea. *Reuters*

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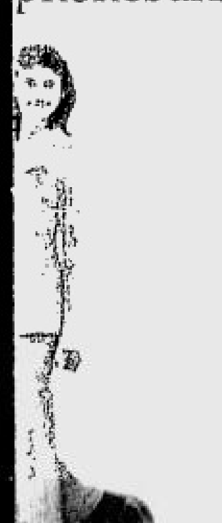

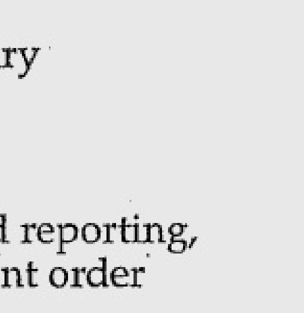

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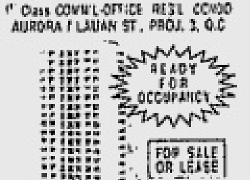

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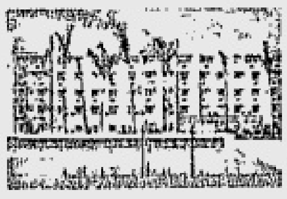

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September 20, 2003
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8:30 AM - Judging
Ring 1&2 - Sporting Group
12:00 NN - Lunch Break
12:30 PM - Registration
1:00 PM - Judging
Ring 1 - Hound, Terrier & Toy Group
Ring 2 - Terrier, Toy & Hound Group

Sunday,
September 21, 2003
8:00 AM - Registration
8:30 AM - Judging
Ring 1 - Non-Sporting & Herding Group
Ring 2 - Herding & Non-Sporting Group
12:00 NN - Lunch Break
12:30 PM - Registration
1:00 PM - Judging
Ring 1 - Boxer, Rottweiler, G. Dane, Dobe, Husky
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Res. Physician Doel, Cams Norte • CP# 0917-5312221

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late ROBERTO MONSOD who died on Aug. 21, 1987 and JOSEFA MONSOD who died Jan 5, 1987 in Makati City has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs on Sept 4, 2003 under Doc 393, Page 80, Book 55, Series of 2003 by Atty Pio Kenneth T. Dasal.
PDI-Sept

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Department of Health
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL MEDICINE
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel Nos 807-26-28 to 32 Fax No. 842-22-45

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

BAC-ITB NO. 2003-07

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) hereby invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of Janitorial, Security and Engineering Maintenance Services to the Institute.

Interested parties may secure bid form upon payment of non-refundable bidder's fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) from the Property & Supply Department from September 22 to October 1, 2003.

The following schedules will be followed:

Type of Services	Deadline of Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents is at 4:00 P.M.	Bid Conference for Qualified Bidders	Bid Opening
Janitorial	October 3, 2003	October 8, 2003 9:00-11:00 A.M. Lecture Rooms 2 & 3	October 22, 2003 9:00 A.M. Lecture Rooms 2&3
Security	October 3, 2003	October 8, 2003 1:00-3:00 P.M Lecture Rooms 2&3	October 22, 2003 1:30 P.M. Lecture Rooms 2&3
Engineering Maintenance	October 3 2003	October 8, 2003 3:00-5:00 P.M. Lecture Rooms 2&3	October 22, 2003 3:00 P.M. Lecture Rooms 2&3

Interested bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification documents not later than the above mentioned schedule on pre-qualification:

1. Letter of Application for Eligibility and to Bid addressed to the BAC
2. DTI Business Name Registration Certificate
3. SEC Registration Certificate with Articles of Incorporation
4. Mayor's/Business Permit
5. Company Profile that includes a list of employees, their qualification(s) and applicable professional licenses
6. Inventory of existing equipment
7. Statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding in any government agency, office or corporation
8. Statement of previous similar contracts completed in the last five (5) years (i.e. name of company and date of the contract)
9. Certification of performance of existing clients (except RITM)
10. Audited Financial Statements stamped received by the BIR (last 3 years)
11. Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN)
12. Certified true copy of Income Tax Return duly received by the BIR (last 3 years)
13. BIR Value Added Tax Registration (BIR Form 1556)
14. Certificate of Authorized Representative
15. Under oath certification by the prospective bidder of its duly authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original (duly notarized)

Only Pre-qualified Bidders shall be allowed to attend the Pre-bid Conference. Attendance to Pre-Bid Conference is a must and failure to show up shall be deemed to have waived his right to participate

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidder or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the RITM's action

(Sgd.) SALVACION R. GATCHALIAN, M.D.
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI–Sept. 20 & 27, 2003)

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Almeda Building, Roxas Boulevard
Corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 551-9587 / 891-6444
www.peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (THE OWNER) invites all interested bidders to Apply for Eligibility and if found to be Eligible, to bid for the Security Services requirement of PEZA.
2. Approved Budget: P20,590,200.00
3. Eligibility Documents may be secured upon presentation of BAC Certificate of Registration and payment of a non-refundable fee of TWO HUNDRED PESOS (P200.00) from the BAC Secretariat 3/F Almeda Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City from 22 September to 03 October 2003, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Mondays to Fridays only. Eligibility Documents must be submitted to the BAC Secretariat not later than 3:00 pm of 17 October 2003. All applicants will be informed in writing of their Eligibility or Ineligibility.
4. Time and date of the Pre-Bid Conference and the Deadline for the Submission and Opening of Bids will be indicated in the Instructions to Bidders / Bid Documents that will be available only to Eligible Bidders.
5. PEZA reserves the right to reject any application or bids or any part thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the Applicant and/or Bidder may incur in the preparation of Eligibility Documents and of the Bids, and will entertain only such Bid/s established to be the most advantageous to the Government.

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–September 20 & 27, 2003)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT
ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
CORPORATE OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) invites interested Contractors (Medium A) to submit sealed bids for the Public Bidding of Re-construction of Existing Perimeter Fence and Raising of Existing Fence of the La Mesa Dam/Reservoir located along Quirino Highway, Quezon City denominated as Contract No. RPF-QH-01 with Approved Budget Cost of P9.88 M chargeable against MWSS Local Funds. The contract duration for this Project shall be 120 calendar days from the issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of the qualification requirements from

MWSS BAC SECRETARIAT
Engineering & Project Management Dept.
Ground Floor, MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telefax: 922-2568

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible Bidder upon payment of a non-refundable fee in cash or in check payable to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) in the amount of P500.00 starting **September 15, 2003**. All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security in any of the following:

a. Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or Bank Draft - minimum of one (1%) percent of the Approved Budget Cost (ABC)

b. Bank Guarantee - minimum of one and a half (1 1/2%) percent of the Approved Budget Cost (ABC)

Surety Bond - minimum of two and a half (2 1/2%) percent of the Approved Budget Cost (ABC)

Submission of Bids (Technical and Financial Proposals) to the above Office must be on or before 2:00 p.m. on **October 16, 2003**. The Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who may choose to attend at the office of MWSS BAC SECRETARIAT, MWSS Engineering & Project Management Department Ground Floor, Engineering/Operations Building, Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Metro Manila.

The official timer for purposes of determining the official time shall be based on the bundy clock located at the Office of MWSS, BAC SECRETARIAT

Late bids will not be accepted.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the above address of the BAC SECRETARIAT on **October 1, 2003** at 2:00 p.m

(Sgd.) ORLANDO C. HONRADE
Administrator

(PDI-Sept 20 & 27 2003)

GenAsia Biotech L.L.C. would like to invite interested candidates to apply for vacancies for one of our principals:

smith&nephew

ACCOUNTS MANAGER
- Male or Female with Financial Management background-preferably CPA
- Minimum 5 years experience in similar field, experience in Multinational Company
- High computer literacy and has ability to work under pressure
- Experience: Budgeting, Forecasting, Working Capital Management as well as Profit/Cost centre management

ACCOUNTANT
- Male or Female with Accounting Background-preferably CPA
- Minimum 3 years experience in similar field, experience in Multinational Company
- High computer literacy and ability to work under pressure
- Responsibility: General Accounting

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
- Female with 3-5 years experience in similar field, preferably in Multinational Company .
- High computer literacy, ability to work under pressure
- Responsibility: Secretarial duties, Efficient and timely processing of Management Reports and Analysis work; Provide H.R. and administrative support.

SALES REPRESENTATIVES (MEDICAL / SURGICAL)
- Male or Female preferably with a Bachelor of Science degree (Medical or Biomed/ Engineering) with 3-5 years experience in dynamic environment, preferably in Multinational Company
- Ability to build and maintain business relationship with senior medical consultants and purchasing staff
- Drivers licence and open to extensive travelling

CLINICAL SPECIALIST-WOUND MANAGEMENT
- Male or Female with a Medical / Nursing background
- Experience with Chronic wounds /burns preferred
- Experience in working in a dynamic environment
- Ability to work under pressure and willing to travel extensively
- Responsibility: Support the Marketing Department in launching new products and conduct clinical evaluations and presentations

INFORMATION SERVICES MANAGER
- Male or Female with Bachelor of Engineering Degree pref. Masters in Electronic or Computer Science with minimum 7-10 years experience preference will be given to MCSE 2000 certification and CCNA.
- Possess Working knowledge of Unix and Windows 2000 servers and implementation of WAN and well versed with SAN.
- Strong organisational skills, ability to work under pressure
- Responsibility: Develop IT strategies and implement projects

INFORMATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR
- Male or Female with 3-5 years experience in similar field, preferably in Multinational Company .
- High computer literacy, ability to work under pressure
- Responsibility: Administer the network of the company

CUSTOMER SUPPORT
- Male or Female preferably with a Bachelor of Science degree (Nursing/ Chemistry/Biology) with 2 years experience in dynamic environment, preferably in Multinational Company
- Knowledge of logistics and freight operations an advantage
- Responsibility: Handling customer profiles, complaints and enquiries

PURCHASE COORDINATOR
- Male or Female with minimum 2 years experience in a Multinational Co.
- High computer literacy and ability to work under pressure
- Knowledge on Logistics and Freight operations
- Responsibility: Inventory stock purchase, Incoming shipments and Clearing and other shipping documentation

PRODUCT/BRAND MANAGERS (ORTHOPAEDICS/ENDOSCOPY)
- Male, preferably Marketing qualifications and Science Background Experience within Medical / Pharmaceutical fields is an advantage
- High Computer Literacy
- Willing to travel extensively
- Responsibility: Formulate and establish Product Plans and Marketing Strategies and Product Brand Management

ALL APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:
• Fluent in written and spoken English • Excellent presentation and communication skills •
• Results oriented • Excellent planning and organisational skills • Team player •

PLEASE FAX /EMAIL YOUR CURRICULUM VITAE (CV) / BIO-DATA TO:
GenAsia Biotech L.L.C • UG41 Cityland Pioneer, 128 Pioneer St. Mandaluyong City 1550
E-mail: genasiabio@surfshop.net.ph Fax: (02)-6382803
PHONE-IN ENQUIRIES/FOLLOW-UP WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED. QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE CONTACTED IN DUE COURSE.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
La Union Ilocos Lending Center
Batac Branch

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for the purchase on cash basis of the properties listed below will be received at Land Bank of the Philippines-Batac Branch not later than 9:30 AM on October 2, 2003 at which place, date and time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

	DESCRIPTION		MINIMUM BID
1	REAL ESTATE	TCT Nos. T-2651, T-2455 & T-2456	
	Aggregate Area	2,688.03 sq. meters	
	Reg Owner	Land Bank of the Philippines	
	Shape	Almost Rectangular	
	Topography	Flat	
	General Land Usage	Residential/Commercial	
	Improvements		
	1. Convenience Store	Area – 82.40 sq. m.	
	2. Boy's Quarter	Area – 27 sq. m.	
	3. Concrete Driveway	Area – 140 sq. m.	
	4. Perimeter Fence	Area – 165 sq. m.	
	5. Residential Bldg. 1	Area – 50 sq. m.	
	6. Residential Bldg. 2	Area — 82 sq. m	
	7. Gasoline Filling canopy/Shed	Area - 192 sq. m	
	8. Cable Office	Area – 40.70 sq. m.	
	9. Concrete Driveway	Area – 172.25 sq. m.	
	10. Bus Terminal	Area – 508.75 sq. m.	
	11. 2-storey Residential Bldg.		P11,260,569.00

The said properties are located in Brgy. Lacub, Batac, Ilocos Norte. Approximately 50 meters southwest of Marcos Museum and about 130 meters southwest of Batac Municipal Hall.
If for any reason the above mentioned date is declared non-working day, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

Copies of (1) Invitation to Bid (2) General Conditions on the Conduct of Public Bidding may be obtained from the Land Bank of the Philippines, Batac Branch. Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of the properties shall be "As-Is-Where-Is". The winning bidder shall take possession of the awarded property without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities

LBP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of the LBP shall be final and binding

DM/OIC FRANCISCO A. PASADO
Chairman
Regional Committee on Bids
And Awards And Disposal of Bank Properties

(PDI–Sept. 20, 21, 22, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
National Capital Region
U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila
Tel. No. (02) 563-9452 Fax No. (02) 564-2072/75

INVITATION TO REGISTER & TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR SECURITY SERVICES FOR NFA-NCR

The National Food Authority, National Capital Region invites all interested private security agencies to register, apply for eligibility and to bid for provision of security services to be deployed at the different NFA designated areas/installations (composed of different NFA district offices) in NFA-National Capital Region with per lot as follows

LOT	AREA COVERED	NO. OF SG'S	BUDGET
I	CDO & IPSO	62	P10,512,720.00
II	NDO & MTO	66	P11,190,960.00
III	SDO, EDO & CPO	110	P18,651,600.00

Application forms and list of requirements for registration can be secured from the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC-SS) Secretariat upon submission of a letter of intent and after payment of a non-transferable/nonrefundable registration fee of **PESO TWO THOUSAND (P2,000.00)**.

Only PSA's with Certificate of Official Registration as NFA Security Service Contractor issued by NFA-NCR RBAC SS may apply for eligibility and to bid for NCR Security Services.

The schedule of activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Application for Registration/Requirements	September 22-30, 2003 (From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
Deadline for Submission of Registration Application & Requirements	Not later than 3:00 p.m. October 8, 2003
Issuance of Certificates of Registration & Application/Requirements for Eligibility & to Bid	On or before October 17, 2003 (From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
4. Pre-Bidding Conference	October 21, 2003, 10:00 a.m.
5. Bidding Proper	November 7, 2003, 9:00 a.m.

The Application Forms, Requirements for Eligibility and to Bid may be obtained from the RBAC-SS Secretariat after payment of a non-transferable/nonrefundable bidding fee in the amount of **TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00)**.

Submission of application for eligibility and to bid and required documents shall be on November 7, 2003 not later than 9:00 a.m., and the opening of bids at 10:00 a.m. of the same day at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA-NCR Building, U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS FOR OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND/OR THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) ATTY. BASILIDES TACO
Asst. Regional Manager, NCR
& Chairman, RBAC-SS

(PDI - Sept 20 & 28 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development for Cagayan Valley
Carig, Tuguegarao City
SIGLA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The bids and Awards Committee of the DOH - Center for Health Development for Cagayan Valley, Carig, Tuguegarao City hereby invites interested bidders to a public bidding for medical & hospital supplies and hospital & laboratory equipment

The approved budget is P3,876,000.00 sourced from GOP.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Issuance of Registration Requirements, Application for Eligibility and Bid Documents	Sept. 15 to Oct. 3, 2003 (Monday-Friday) 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. BAC Secretariat, DOH, CHD-CV
Pre-Bid Conference	September 29, 2003 - 9:00 a.m. Conference Hall of DOH, CHD-CV
Deadline for Submission of Sealed Bid Documents & Sealed Eligibility Requirements	October 6, 2003 - 9:00 a.m. Conference Hall of DOH, CHD-CV

Sealed bids will be opened immediately after deadline in the same place and on the same date.

Late bids will not be accepted.

All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security.

Bid documents shall be given upon payment of a non-refundable bid fee of P1,000.00.

The RBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or part thereof, to waive any defect contained therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government and supportive to the needs of the DOH, CHD-CV, Tuguegarao City.

For more details, please contact RBAC Secretariat at telephone no. 846-7230.

(Sgd.) TITA N. CALLUENG, MD, MPH
Director III

(PDI - Sept 13 & 20 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Historical Institute, in its efforts to encourage and promote original (research in Philippine history, is offering grants for historical research. These grants, which will have duration of ten months, are for individuals especially graduate history students, researchers and professionals. A maximum of P200,000 will be allowed per grant. The topics of research are national or local history, sectoral institutional or biographical. The sources of research must be at least 80% primary sources

Interested parties may send their proposals to the office of the Executive Director, National Historical Institute, T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila on or before October 15, 2003. Proposals must follow the following outline:

Title of the Research
Nature of the Research (national history, local history, sectoral history, institutional history)
Abstract of the Research
Significance of the Research
Necessity of the Research (Research Problems)
Review of Related Literature and Bibliography
Schedule of Research
Curriculum vitae of the applicant

The proposal must be accompanied by an endorsement of an institution which will guarantee the completion of the project. For further inquiry, please call the Research and Publications Division, National Historical Institute at 523-1037.

(PDI – September 20 & 21, 2003)

TESDA

Republic of the Philippines
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

September, 2003
Loan No. 1750-PH TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Contract No. ADBTES – 03

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for Courseware Learning Materials (ADBTES-03)
2. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) now invites Sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of various courseware materials in books and electronic format for use in TESDP.
3. The procurement will be conducted in accordance with ADB's International Shopping (IS) procedure, single-stage one-envelope, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the TESDA and inspect the Bidding Document from 9:00-4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday from September 22, 2003 at the address given in Item 9 below.
5. The Bidding Document in the English language, may be purchased by the interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below beginning September 22, 2003 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine pesos 2,500.00 or US$45.00 to the TESDA Cashier with office at 3rd Floor, TESDA Administrative Building, TESDA Compound, East Service Road, South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila. Foreign bidders may deposit through BSP Account No. 021085295 with Federal Reserved Bank of New York for further credit to Treasurer of the Philippines FCC Dollar Account. The method of payment will either be in certified bank cheque or cash. The document will be couriered or sent through registered mail. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
6. A Pre-Bid Conference with interested eligible Bidders will be held on October 13, 2003, 2:00 pm at the address below, during which all clarifications related to the bidding shall be discussed. Bidders' representatives are invited to participate in the said conference.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 12:00 noon on November 24, 2003, accompanied with a Bid Security of not less than 2% of the amount of the bid. Late Bids shall be rejected, Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on November 24, 2003 at 2:00 PM.
8. TESDA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
9. The address of the Project Management Office is:

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TESDA Compound, TESDP Project Management Office
Ground Floor, Pevoti Building
East Service Road, South Superhighway
Taguig, Metro Manila
Philippines
Contact Person : The Bids and Awards Committee Chairman
Telefax : (63 2) 8938306

(Sgd.) Dr. **ALCESTIS M. GUIANG**
Project Director, TESDP
Director-General, TESDA

(PDI – September 20 & 27, 2003)

VICTORIAS
MILLING COMPANY, INC.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

Victorias Milling Company, Inc., Victorias City, Negros Occidental, wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the *supply, installation and commissioning of three (3) units bagging line system for the Packaging Station of Refinery Department on a full turn-key basis.*

The pre-qualification forms are available at the MCD Office, VMC Millsite and at the VMC Makati Procurement Office during office hours from **September 22-26, 2003**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P300.00. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification papers is on **September 29, 2003**. The pre-bid conference will be held on **October 9, 2003, 3:30 P.M. at the HRD Conference Room, VMC Millsite, Victorias City, Negros Occidental.** The bidding date will be announced thereafter. Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price in the form of Cashier's/Manager's check.

For further inquiries, please contact Messrs. **Carlos S. Quiatchon, Dan C. Labrador or Ramon P. Pun-an** at VMC Millsite at telephone numbers **(034)399-3696, (034)399-3698 to 99 and 2309**(local), and **Mr. Ping A. Abad** at VMC Makati Procurement Office at telephone numbers, **(02)890-5256** and **(02)890-7062.**

Victorias Milling Company, Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the company. The Company assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder/s for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **CAROLINA S. DIAZ**
Chairperson, Senior Bidding Committee

(PDI–Sept. 20, 2003)

NCCC **NEW CITY COMMERCIAL CORPORATION** NCCC

Our major mall project in Davao City immediately needs of the following:

- ***Code NCCC-01: Safety and Security Services Contractor*** with extensive Class A mall track record

  Please register for pre-qualification at www.nccc.com.ph on **September 20** through **September 29, 2003**
- ***Code NCCC-02: Janitorial Services Contractor*** with extensive Class A mall track record

  Please register for pre-qualification at www.nccc.com.ph on **October 6** through **October 13, 2003**

Phone calls, printed applications and personal follow-ups will not be accepted.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City
Telephone No. 841-4166; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph;
Email: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites all authorized manufacturers, distributors, dealers and suppliers to apply for eligibility and if found to be eligible, to bid for the supply, delivery and installation of a Walk-Thru Metal Detector with an approved budget of P0.5MM.

The Terms of Reference is available on October 6-10, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat, 9th Floor, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City.

Deadline for submission of bids is on October 22, 2003 at 2:00 PM at the same venue, afterwhich the opening of bids will follow immediately.

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of RA 9184.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(FOR GOODS, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS)

(PDI--September 20 & 28, 2003)

LGU URBAN WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT (LGU-UWSP) PHASE 2
Output – Based Aid Program in La Union Province
Philippines

PROVINCE OF LA UNION
Provincial Capitol Building
San Fernando City, La Union 2500
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E-mail: vfortega@launion.com.ph

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

FOR A DESIGN, BUILD AND OPERATE CONTRACT FOR THE METROPOLITAN LA UNION WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan toward financing the cost of an Output-Based Aid Program in La Union Province.

The Provincial Government of La Union would like to invite contractors, consortia and/or firms who wish to be prequalified for bidding for the Output-Based Aid Program. Prequalification and bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines, Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996, September 1997 and January 1999), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

The Output-Based Aid Program in La Union will finance connections to pre-identified low income households in the urban areas of the City of San Fernando, and the Municipalities of Bacnotan, Bauang, San Gabriel and San Juan. These five (5) Local Government Units (or LGUs) together form the franchise area. Under the proposed arrangement, the Province of La Union will provide an amount per connection to pre-identified low income households, while the private operator will be responsible to design, construct, operate, maintain and manage the water supply system in the metropolitan area for fifteen (15) years.

The DBP will make available in a long-term loan of a maximum of four hundred million pesos (P400,000,000) to the winning bidder, provided that the winning bidder fulfills all credit requirements of the DBP. The maturity of the loan could be up to a maximum of twelve (12) years at a maximum interest rate of fifteen percent (15%) per annum, according to the credit assessment of DBP.

A complete set of prequalification documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon the submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00), in cash. Prequalification Documents may be purchased at the Office of the Provincial Administrator, Province of La Union, Provincial Capitol Building, San Fernando City or at the Office of Ms. Eufemia C. Mendoza, Vice President, 5th Floor, Development Bank of the Philippines, Makati City.

Application for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the Office of the Provincial Administrator, Province of La Union, San Fernando City or at the Office of Ms. Eufemia C. Mendoza, Vice President, 5th Floor, Development Bank of the Philippines, Makati City by October 31, 2003 and clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Output-Based Aid Program in La Union Province."

(ORIGINAL SIGNED)
GOV. VICTOR F. ORTEGA
PBAC-Chairman

(PDI–Sept 12, 14 & 20, 2003)

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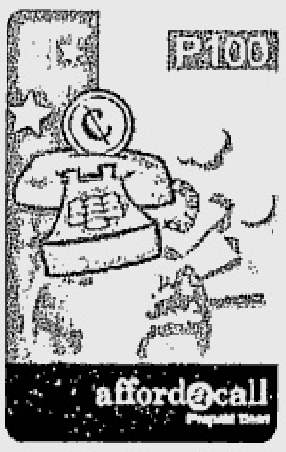

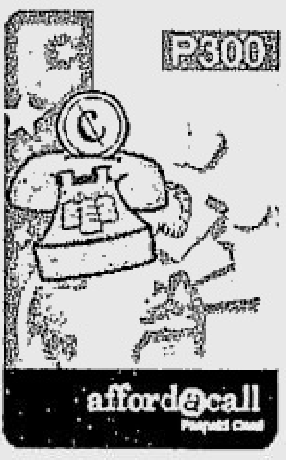

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"In Christ all shall be alive..." **Corinthians 15:22**

DR. GREGORIO MANILA BAILON

of Daraga, Albay
May 9, 1912 – September 17, 2003

Peacefully joined our Lord
at the age of 91.

His bereaved wife **Carolina (Babie) R. Bailon**; loving sister **Pilar B. Roces**; loving children **Nora & Roger Mendiola, Inday & Manny Santi, Beth, George, & Melissa, Ed & Annie, Ben, Joseph, Rose & Jacob Kuruvinakunnel**; grandchildren **Babette & Erwin Ramos, Richie & Pia Mendiola, Oliver & Peewee Mendiola, Tricia, Tin, Abet & Joseph Santi, Joshua Bailon, Jed, Anca, Kathlyn & IC Bailon, Kate Bailon, Jopy Bailon, Caro & Mathew Kuruvinakunnel** and great grandchildren **Matthew & Lawrence Ramos, Trissa & Mica Mendiola** and **Maxinne Mendiola**, and relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Oro, Legaspi City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 24, 2003
at the Albay Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 P.M. Mass at Albay Cathedral.

ALVIN BILLAN ANG

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
at the age of 41
on the 18th of September 2003.

His loving parents, wife, children, brothers & sisters, in-laws, uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

"You will forever be in our hearts, Pa"

AMADO DIOKNO DIOKNO, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on September 16, 2003 at the age of 86.

His bereaved wife **Leonila Ibanez Diokno**; children: **Myrna, Carmelita, Romeo, Amado Jr.** and **Elizabeth, Ramon, Rafael, Narciso, Ma. Lourdes, Joseph, Ma. Teresa, Criselda, Chito** and **Kitina, Carlos** and **Linda**; **Luningning** and **Nanding**; brothers and sisters, in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 3-C), G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 21, 2003 at Paraiso Memorial Park, San Mateo, Rizal.

"I will bless you
and make your name
great; and you shall be
a blessing."
Genesis 12:2

MARCELINA AQUINO AZURIN

of Vigan, Ilocos Sur and Quezon City

Peacefully joined her Creator
on September 18, 2003 at the age of 90.

She was met at the gates by her loving husband **Gregorio**; sons **Eulogio, Rafael** and **Carlos**; her bereaved children **Angeles, Maria Luisa, Bernardita** and **Maria Corazon**; children-in-law **Mario Tindoc, Bony Baquiran, Mayette Azurin, Vicky Delgado, Norman Quimpo** and **Errol Collado**; grandchildren and great-grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Ascension Chapel, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (Claret Church) Mahinhin St., U.P. Village, Quezon City.

Cremation will take place on Sunday, September 21, 2003 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park Crematory after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Ascencion Chapel.

RET. RTC JUDGE ALFREDO A. CAJIGAL

of Laoag City

Peacefully joined our Lord
on September 18, 2003 at the age of 73.

His loving wife CLARITA; children Atty. Ofel Cajigal, Alfred (Claro) Jr., Frederick; grandchildren Clarizze May, Alfred Lorenzo, Ann Valerie; together with brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Santuario de San Jose, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City and will be transferred to Laoag City on September 21, 2003.

Interment will be announced later.

In Loving Memory

on the Thirtieth Death Anniversary

of

MANUEL J. REVILLA, JR.

on 21 September 1973

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches tomorrow, 21 September:

Santuario de San Antonio	**12 Noon; 4:30 pm**
St. John Bosco	**12 Noon; 5:45 pm**
St. Andrew	**12 Noon; 6:00 pm**
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori	**12 Noon; 6:00 pm**
Sto. Niño de Paz	**12 Noon; 6:00 pm**
Santuario de San Jose	**12:15 pm; 6:15 pm**

The family requests pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

EMILY JAUCIAN CERDEÑA

has peacefully gone back to the Father
on 18 September 2003

Please join her loving husband **Hermel Cerdeña**; daughters **Dindin** and **Tricia**, and parents **Jesus** and **Remedios Jaucian** and other relatives and friends in prayers for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at Guevarra Subd., Legazpi City. Interment will be on Tuesday, 23 September 2003 at the Bicol Memorial Park after the 2pm Mass at the Albay Cathedral.

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CLASSIFIEDS

NFA deploys alternative storage facilities in procurement areas

THE NATIONAL Food Authority is deploying alternative grains storage facilities in regions and provinces with brisk palay buying operations to augment existing warehousing capacity particularly during the main harvest.

Among the alternative storage that will be redeployed are the volcani cubes and sealed enclosure fumigation storage or SEFUST. Volcani cubes is an all-weather storage facility used mainly for milled rice that can be installed outside NFA warehouses.

NFA Administrator Arthur C. Yap said deploying these storage facilities will maximize their use as the agency intensifies grains buying for the last quarter of the year.

Alternative storage facilities will be initially deployed in the agency's offices. These are the areas that hold large volume of grains and serve either as major transhipment point for grains import, source of excess rice production to supply rice-deficit areas or center of grains buying operation.

Yap said the NFA expects to buy 277,190 metric tons or 5.5 million bags of palay for the main crop from September to December with P3.7 B allocated for grains buying.

The warehouse space that could be vacated can be utilized for procured palay to avoid the usual practice of outside piling that exposes the grains to elements causing quality deterioration, Yap cited.

NFA releases iron-fortified rice in the market

TO HELP alleviate iron deficiency anemia among Filipinos, the National Food Authority has started selling iron-fortified rice in the market at limited scale.

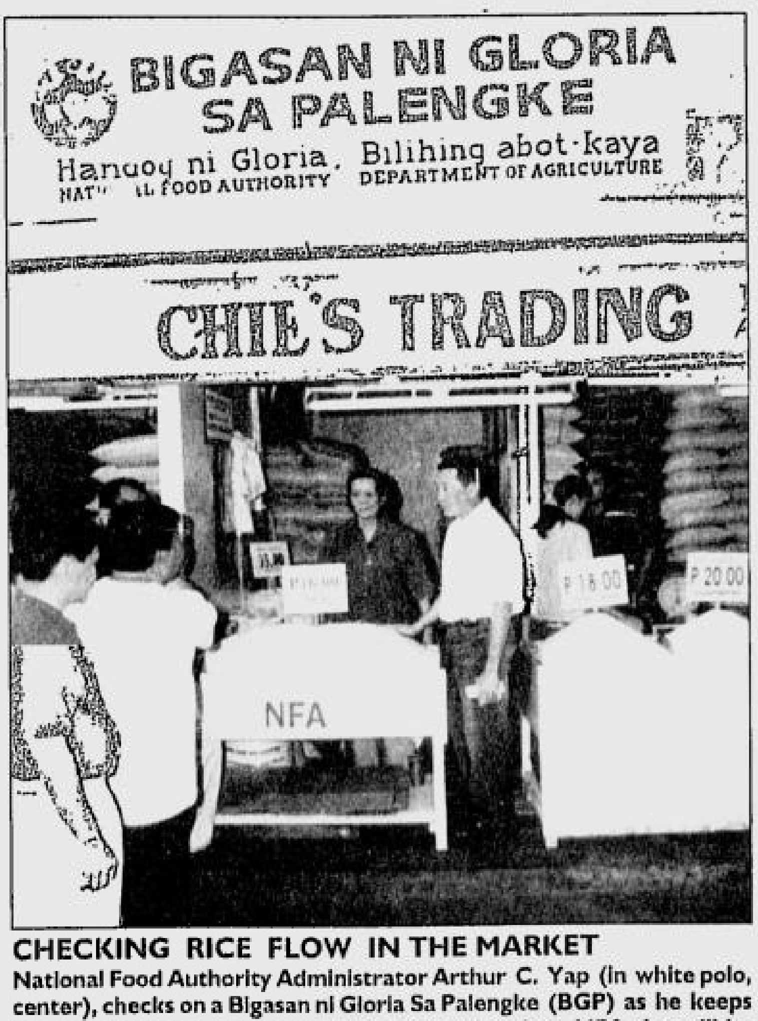
Iron-deficiency anemia is a common health disorder especially among children and lactating mothers.

The NFA Rice Fortification Committee from the Technology Resource Development Department (TRDD), headed by Engr. Arlene Tanseco, successfully established the procedures and technology required for iron-fortified rice using the agency's mechanical dryers.

The NFA's rice fortification program is in compliance with the Philippine Food Fortification of 2000 that calls for the fortification of all imported or locally-produced foods or food products for sale or distribution enhance the nutritional content necessary to alleviate iron deficiency among Filipinos.

NFA Administrator Arthur C. Yap said this effort will hopefully improve the health standards of the rice-eating Filipinos.

Aside from rice, other staple foods that must be fortified are wheat flour, refined sugar and cooking oil, among others.



CHECKING RICE FLOW IN THE MARKET
National Food Authority Administrator Arthur C. Yap (in white polo, center), checks on a Bigasan ni Gloria Sa Palengke (BGP) as he keeps tab of rice flow in the market. To make sure that NFA rice will be accessible and affordable to the ordinary consumers, the NFA is prioritizing the distribution of government rice through BGP rice outlets located inside major markets. Sales of NFA rice at these outlets reached 454,861 bags in August valued at P341 million. BGP exclusively sells NFA rice at P16 per kilogram.

Lower oil prices to give economy a lift

By Elena R. Torrijos

DUBAI, UAE—World oil prices are expected to drop to $25 per barrel or below next year, giving the global economy a big lift, the International Monetary Fund said in its bi-annual World Economic Report released the other day.

Dubai crude prices averaged at $27.66 per barrel in August.

Analysts also predicted that oil prices—the average petroleum spot price of West Texas Intermediate, UK Brent and Dubai crudes—could fall sharply below the $25 per barrel price suggested by current futures prices as Iraq oil production returns to prewar levels, the Fund said.

This echoes a World Bank report on global economic prospects earlier this month predicting that world oil prices would likely fall to the lower end of the $22-$28 per barrel price band of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries or Opec.

In its report, the IMF pointed out that a better-than-expected decline in oil prices would be "a potential upside risk to global activity."

The multilateral agency is projecting a 4.1-percent growth in the global gross domestic product next year from a likely 3.2 percent this year given the recent strengthening of key markets.

Current oil futures contracts expiring in 2008 and beyond indicate further decline in oil prices to about $22 per barrel, but, according to the Fund, discussions with market analysts showed a consensus that oil prices could fall much further to $16-$20 per barrel range in the longer-term.

By late 2004 or early 2005 several deep-water facilities projects in west Africa, Brazil and the US Gulf of Mexico are expected to start operations. Another major project, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, will be completed soon and this is expected to boost the Caspitan region's oil potential.

"In such circumstances, barring weather-related or other shocks to oil demand or a resurfacing of political tensions in Nigeria, Venezuela, or elsewhere that could affect supply, there could well be significant downward pressure on oil prices unless Opec and possibly other major producers lower their production levels," the IMF said.

On the demand side, it was projected that global oil demand growth would remain at 1 to 2 percent a year over the next several years.

"The world (oil) reserve replacement rate is well above 100 percent, implying that new discoveries and expansion of existing oil fields are more than offsetting current oil consumption," the IMF said.

New technology to improve output efficiency and the development of alternative energy sources are also seen to put pressure on oil prices.

At present, world oil prices have been hovering at $27 per barrel.

Forum Energy, Basic sign data sharing deal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOCAL unit of Canadian oil firm Forum Energy Corp. said it had signed with Basic Consolidated a data sharing agreement that would enable the company to provide service to petroleum explorers amid renewed investor interest in Philippine prospects.

Larry Youell, Forum Energy president and chief executive, said in a statement that the deal between Forum Exploration Inc. (FEI) and Basic Consolidated Inc. (BCI)—both listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange—would grant Forum full access and co-ownership of information on oil exploration prospects not covered by existing service contracts as well as geophysical survey and exploration contracts with the national government.

FEI is drilling a second onshore well in search of oil in Cebu while BCI is one of the leading local petroleum exploration and production companies.

Youell said iBasic Inc., a subsidiary of BCI, would digitize and warehouse the data in coordination with FEI's technical unit for the joint venture.

"This agreement puts us in a unique position. At a time when the oil and gas industry in the Philippines is going through a major overhaul, this (deal) couldn't come at a more important and beneficial point."

The Alberta-based executive said the Philippine government was at a defining movement—improving transparency of business and attracting foreign investment through initiatives such as the first even public petroleum contracting round launched in August.

Some 50 foreign and local petroleum companies and consultancy firms attended the launch, where 46 exploration blocks were promoted.

Early this week, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said four American firms had expressed interest to take part in the bidding to be held in March 2004.

"This means that not only are we going to benefit from huge amounts of data for our in-house purposes, but also from the fact that we will now become a co-vendor of such data to potential local and foreign investors and consortia," Youell added.

Napocor sells $250M worth of 15-year bonds

A NEW special purpose vehicle had completed the issuance of a $250-million trust cetificate that will cover the National Power Corp.'s funding needs for 2003, the Department of Energy said yesterday.

The DOE said the papers were issued by the Philippine Power Trust I. They have a maturity of 15 years and was backed by an insurance against non-payment by the US Overseas Private and Investment Corp. or Opic.

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) worked with Opic and the sole arranger and bookrunner—Bear Stearns & Co.—in structuring and concluding the "ground-breaking transaction," the DOE said.

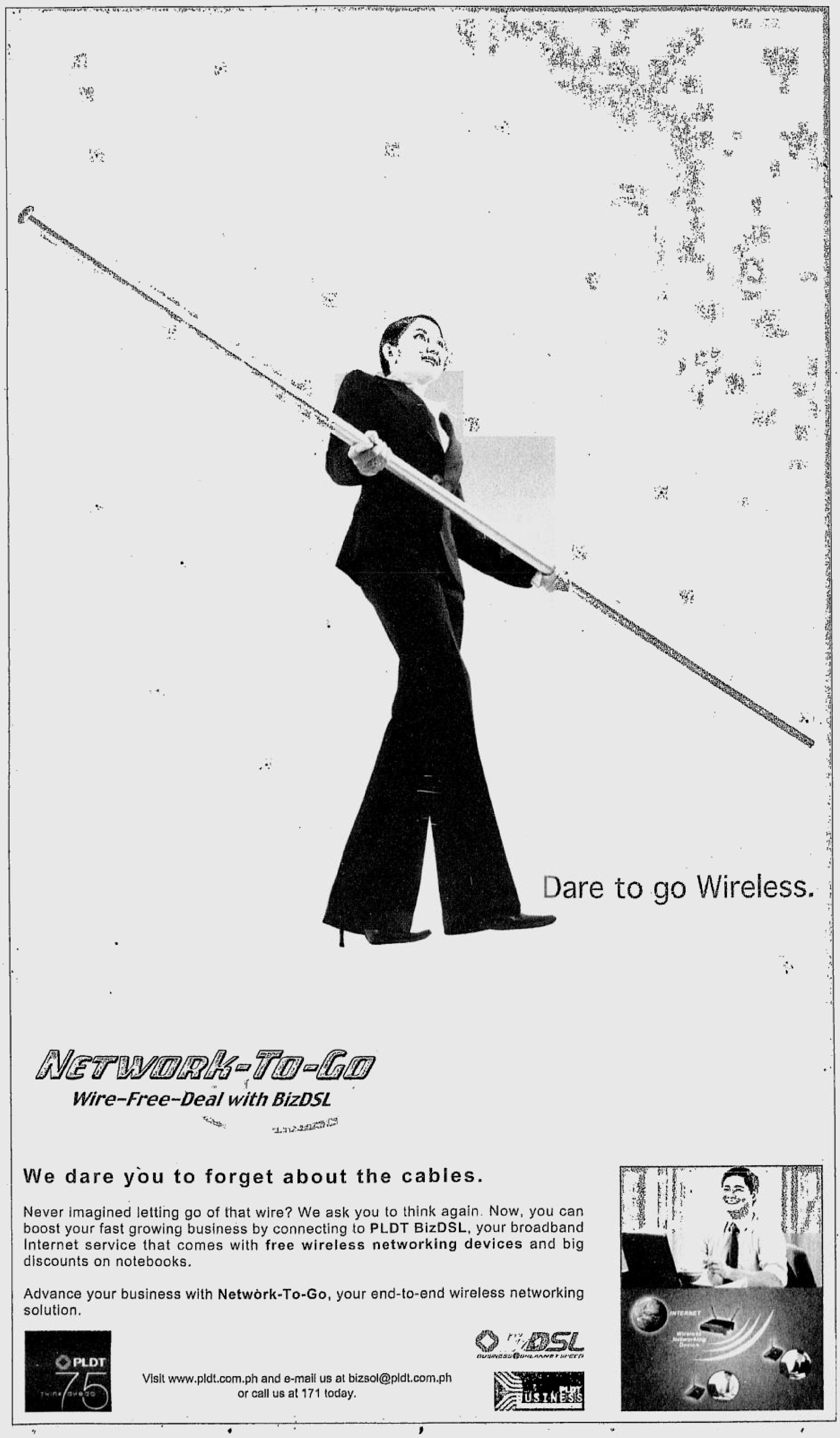
The trust certificates, rated AAA by Standard and Poors, were priced with a fixed coupon rate of 5.4 percent per annum, representing a spread of 120 basis points over the benchmark 10-year US Treasury notes.

Philippine Power Trust I will re-lend the fund to Napocor, which will shoulder all-in-costs of 7.14 percent per annum or 84 basis points below the prevailing secondary market yields of comparable Republic of the Philippines (ROP) bonds.

According to Psalm, such terms would allow Napocor to save at least 100 basis points or $2.5 million per annum against a new issue by the ROP.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said: "The US government's support through the Opic guarantee is considered as a recognition of the numerous power reforms being undertaken by the Philippine government."

Perez explained that the Opic-insured note offering was the first of its kind introduced in the international capital markets. *Ronnel W. Domingo*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SATURDAY Special

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Editor Nestor U. Torre

Unusually strong slate of women's roles

This year's Toronto filmfest has entries starring Kidman, Blanchett, Rossellini and Ryan

MEG Ryan plays a writer caught in a gruesome murder investigation in "In the Cut."

REUTERS/ANDREW WALLACE

FILMS playing at the Toronto International Film Festival feature strong roles for women:

Tragic past

—"The Human Stain." Nicole Kidman plays a custodian with a tragic past who becomes involved with a disgraced academic (Anthony Hopkins).

—"Dogville." Kidman in a harrowing drama about a fugitive who carries out terrible vengeance against a town that abused her.

—"The Saddest Music in the World." Isabella Rossellini is the legless puppetmaster of a Depression-era musical competition.

—"In The Cut." Meg Ryan is an emotionally detached writer caught in a gruesome murder investigation.

—"21 Grams." Naomi Watts plays a grieving woman bent on revenge over the loss of her family.

—"Casa de los Babys." John Sayles' ensemble drama features Marcia Gay Harden, Mary Steenburgen and Daryl Hannah as American women adopting babies in Latin America.

Odd friendship

—"Lost in Translation." Sofia Coppola directs Scarlett Johansson as a young American who forges an odd friendship with a film star (Bill Murray) in Tokyo.

—"Girl With A Pearl Earring." Johansson as a 17th century maid in the household of Dutch painter Vermeer.

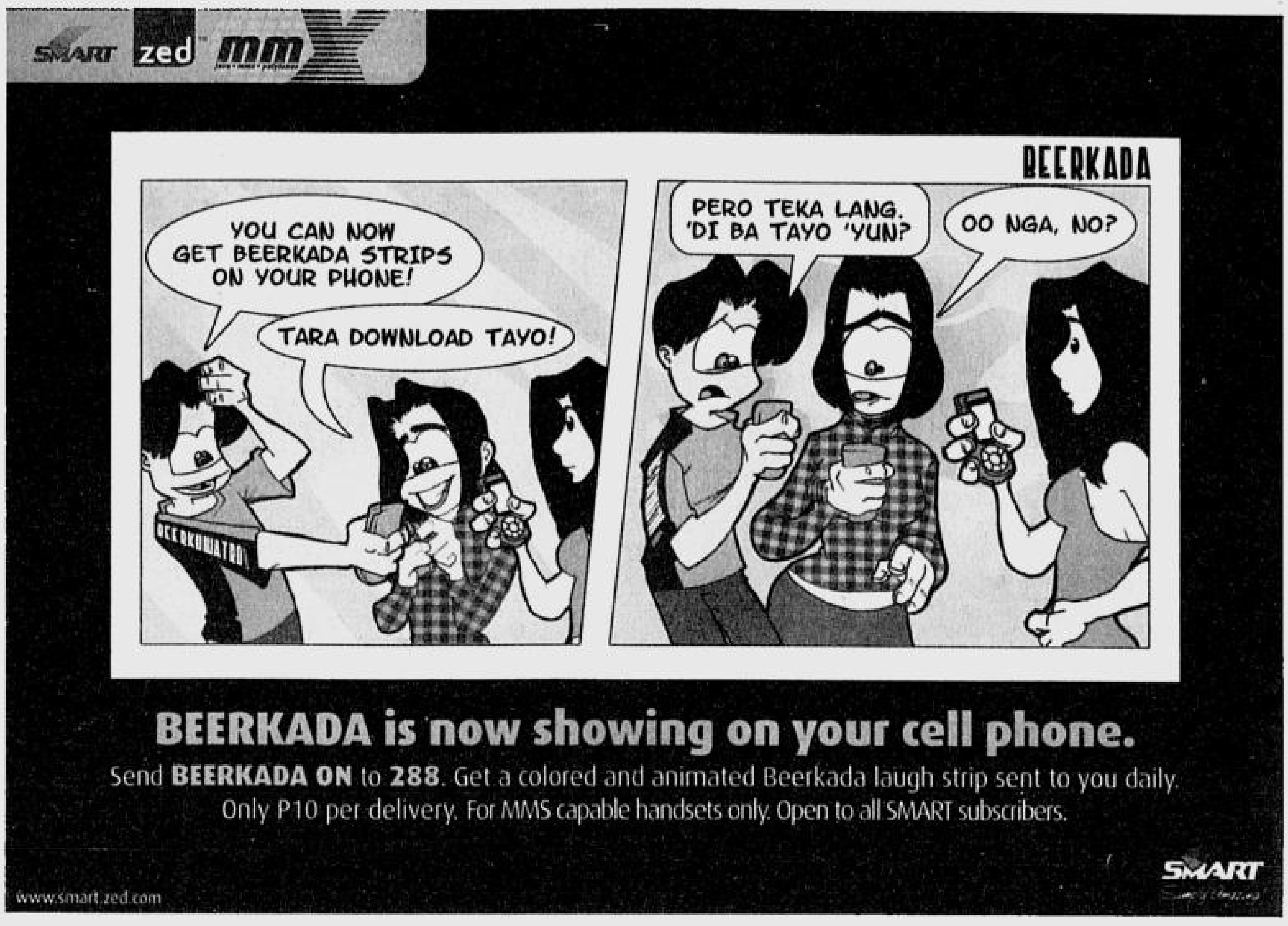
—"The Company." Neve Campbell stars in Robert Altman's ballet tale.

—"My Life Without Me." Sarah Polley as a dying mother.

—"Prey for Rock & Roll." Gina Gershon in a story of women rockers.

—"Veronica Guerin." Cate Blanchett in the true story of a slain Irish reporter.

—"Pieces of April." Katie Holmes is a black-sheep daughter trying to make peace with her mother, Patricia Clarkson, who is coping with breast cancer. *AP*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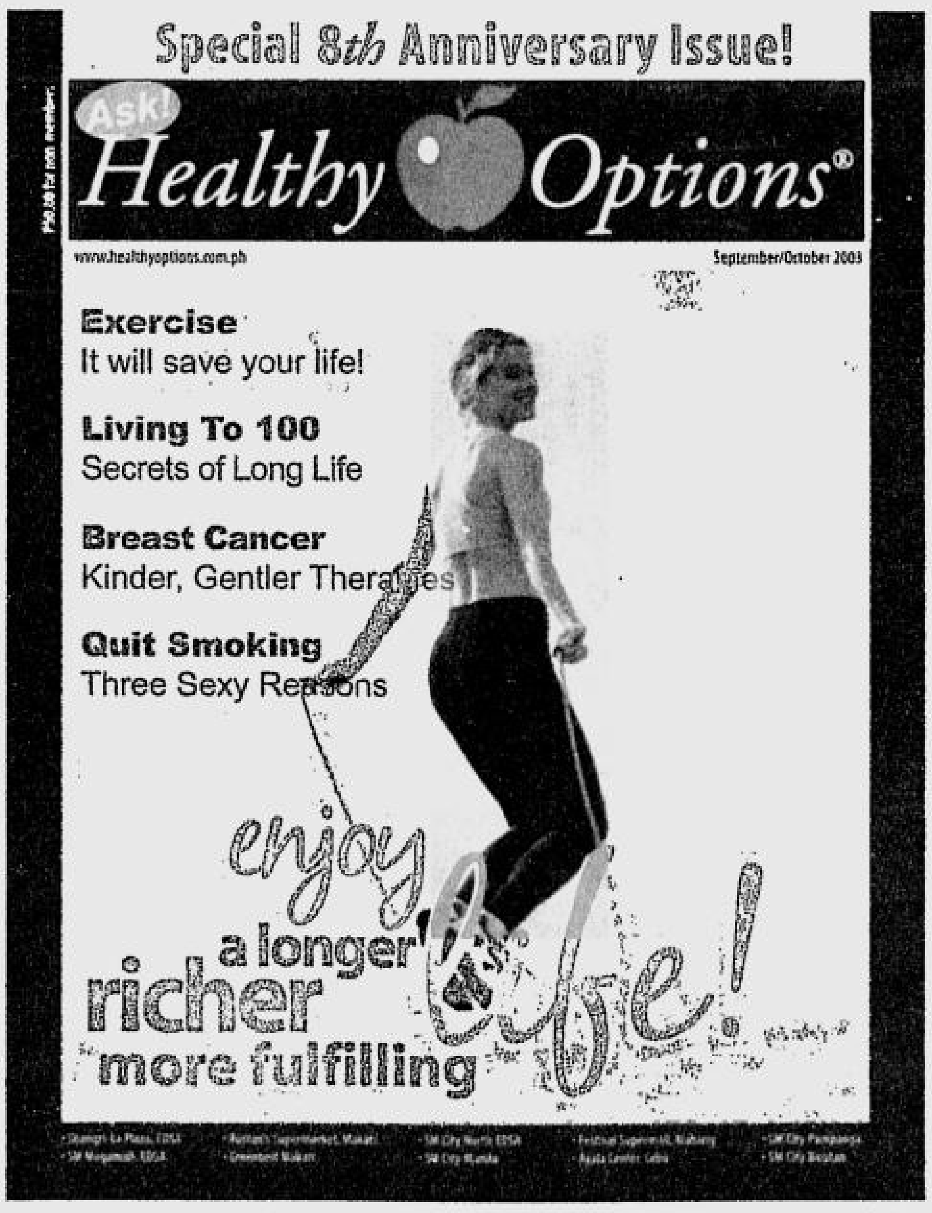

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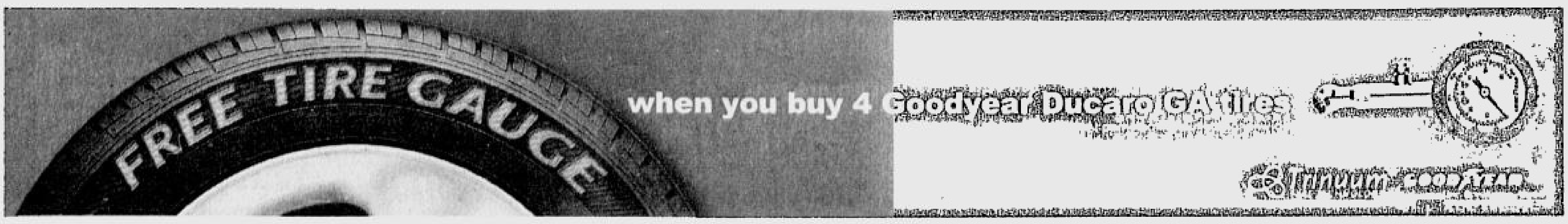


AM/FM

No engineered image-tweaking in 'On The Spot' show

By Rito P. Asilo

"ON the Spot," hosted by DJ Pam on FM's Wave 89.9 (5 to 6 p.m.), had chanteuse Anna Fegi as guest when we tuned in to the show recently.

We don't see Anna as often as we'd like to, but it's always a pleasant experience every time we bump into her.

First time

From the first time we met her (at the original "Rent" auditions) to the time we interviewed her for this paper, she has always fascinated us with her charming sincerity without the cloying mien we often see in celebrities.

This unbridled charm came across easily during the one-hour sing-and-talk show, a format whose appeal is growing on the FM band.

Popular acts

Given the growing popularity of acoustic shows on the live entertainment circuit these days, we're not surprised that more shows of this type are turning up to accommodate requests for live performances of popular acts like Paolo Santos, Nina, Jimmy Bondoc and Nyoy Volante. Radio performances help push sales of performers' recordings and tickets to their gigs.

FEGI. Unbridled charm.

This format appeals to the listener because it allows him to hear for himself if singers sound just as good as they do in recordings, or if they only sound "vocally polished" with the help of technological wizardry—this is what makes the show engrossing. You hear a voice crack, you hear it strain when the note is beyond the singer's range. You just can't fake live singing!

When Anna sang "Closer You and I," originally sung by Gino Padilla, you hear the rich quality of her voice, and the ease with which she controls her vocal instrument—no shrieking, flats or sharps.

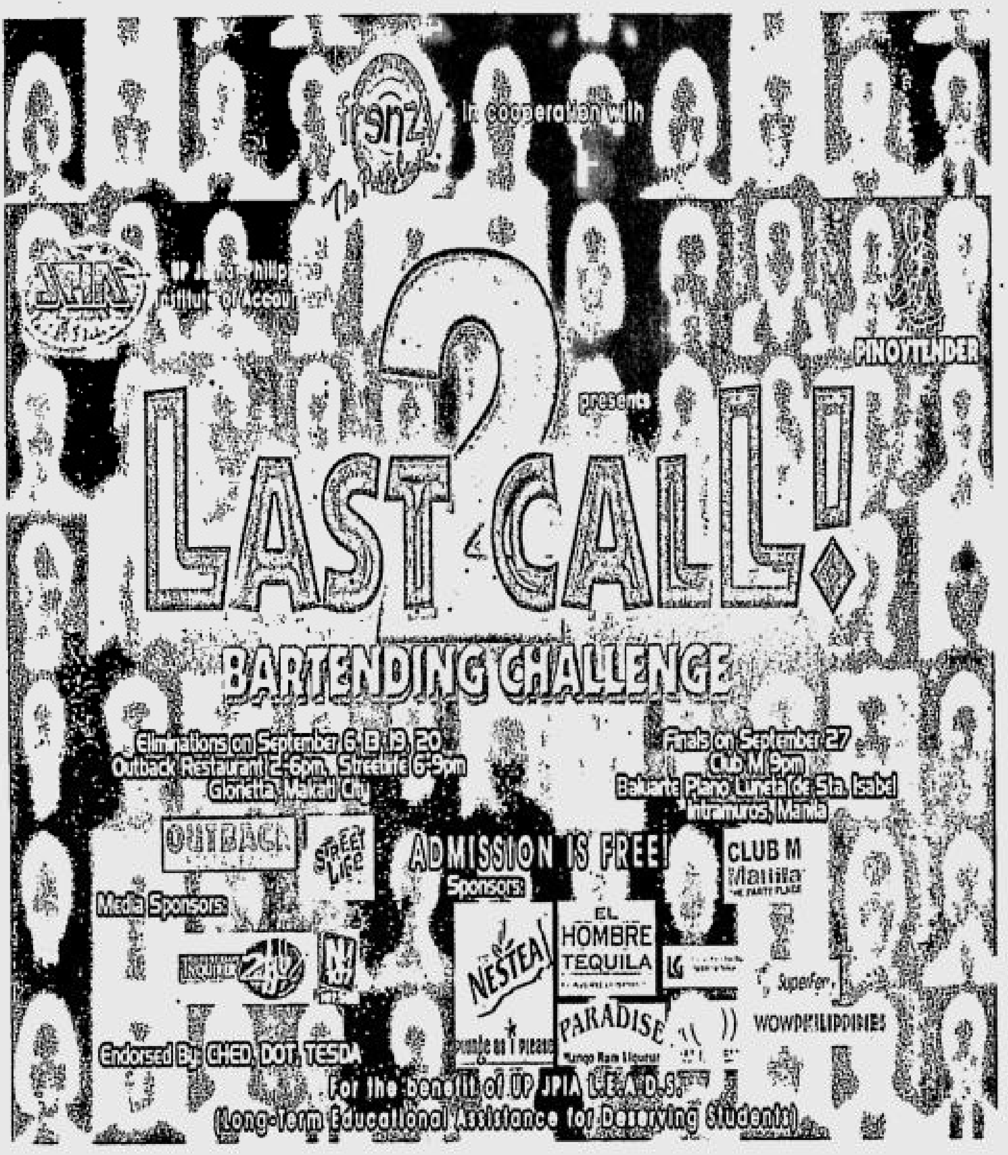
This is what sets her apart from other singers with powerful lungs—most of them just *have* to show off their vocal superiority to less-gifted mortals, who can only attempt vocal bravado in pitch-controlled videokes. Anna, on the other hand, has always preferred to sing her songs on the note and from the heart.

The first time we interviewed her, she admitted she hated having to sing the "go-to-town" songs that are staples in the repertoire of diva wannabes. But she had to sing them because they were what people wanted to hear from her. (If you've ever heard her version of Jennifer Holliday's "And I Am Telling You (I'm Not Going)," you'd understand why, though.)

Beyond images

Shows like "On The Spot" allows a closer look at celebrities beyond images "created" for them by their publicists. You don't just learn how they "filled concert venues to the rafters" or how they "impressed critics with their jaw-dropping performances"—you hear them explain things in their own words, no engineered image-tweaking here.

It was also interesting to listen to Anna trace her roots—auditioning for Ryan Cayabyab's acclaimed singing teen group, "Smokey Mountain" in Cebu, winning one of only three slots in the rock musical "Hair" in Japan, and finally deciding to try her luck in Manila to fulfill her dream of recording an album. She has since done this twice over, as she was also promoting her second album on the show. On to the next dream, Anna!



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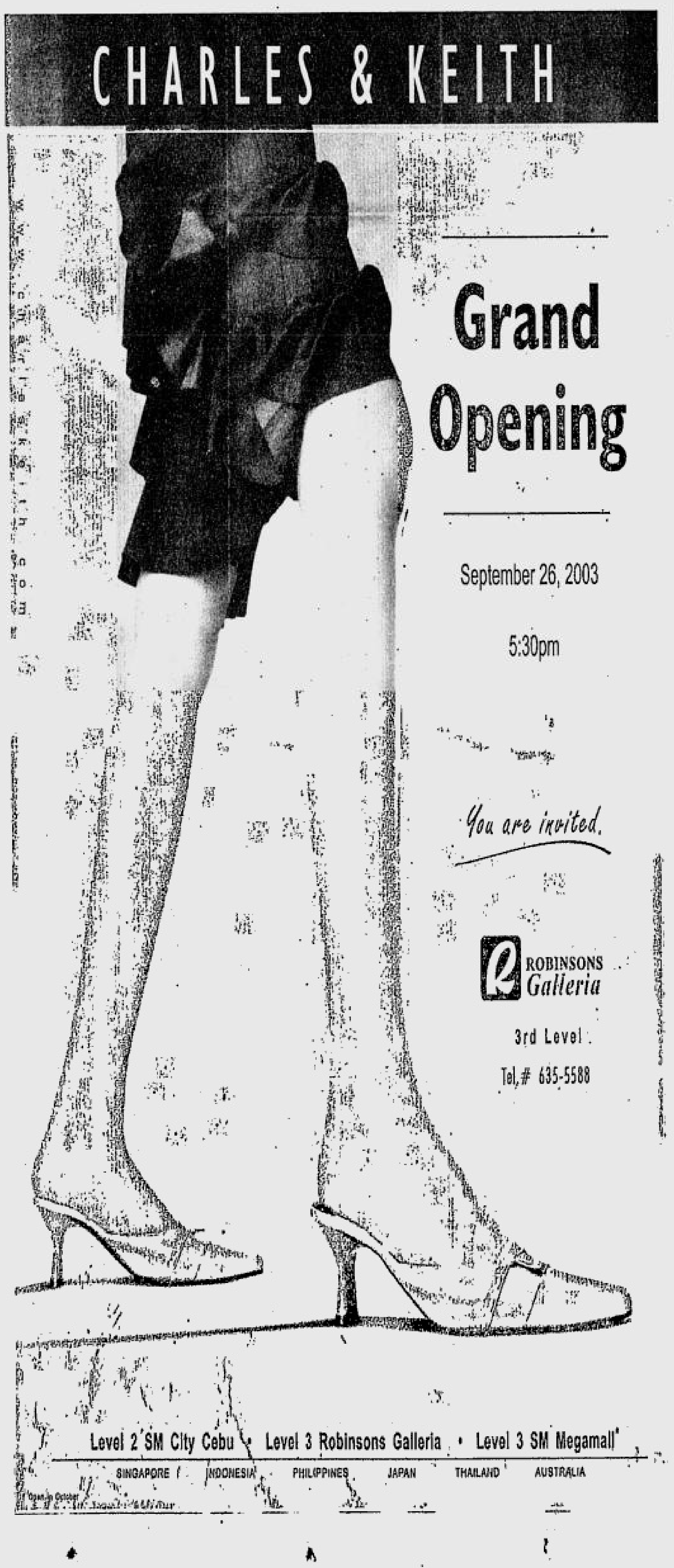

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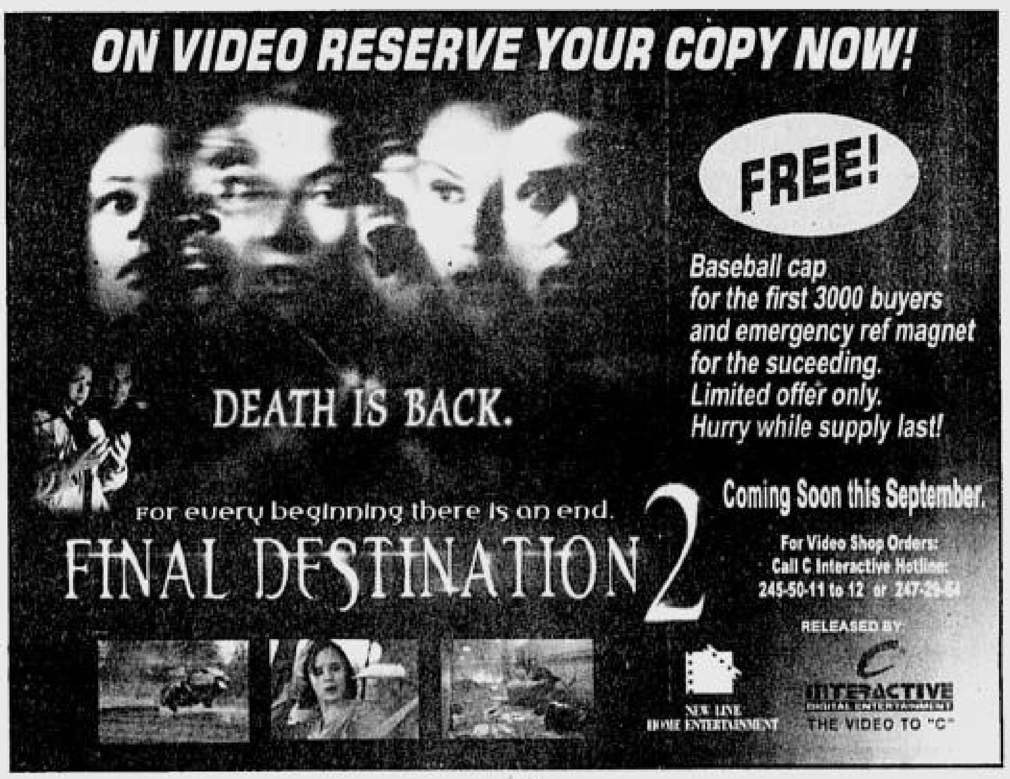

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Seeking

From page C3

your heart. Once established solidly in your heart, your union with God cannot be shaken by anything or taken away by anyone.

"That is my request to you. Just chant the names of God and take Him into your heart. God is there to satisfy your hunger and thirst, your search to be loved by someone, your quest to love someone, your thirst for happiness, purpose, and peace."

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

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FUJI XEROX
Visit www.naga.gov.ph for more information on the schedule of activities

Seeking spiritual refuge

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WHERE do we rest our aching hearts? Some insights from my spiritual teacher, Jagad Guru:

Feeling empty

"We always look for someone to embrace, hold and love. We sometimes feel empty, and we long for the perfect father, friend and companion. The Supreme Being is that someone whom people need. But we hardly know that we are actually seeking God. So, we look for happiness, peace and protection elsewhere.

"We look at the material world and foolishly think, 'There it is! My career, my house, my spouse, my property! That's where my happiness is!' And still, they don't satisfy us. Water quenches our thirst, but we still feel the emptiness in our hearts. A child with innocent eyes grows up, and then, he loses his sweetness.

Real happiness

"The Supreme Person manifests himself to give refuge and real happiness. You can take Him into your heart, into the core of your being. Embrace God's name, and you'll be embracing God. In other words, open your heart and let God in.

"God is the perfect love. Nurture this love. Increase your awareness of God's presence. Increase your sense of being protected by Him. Trust your happiness in God. Embrace Him everyday by chanting His holy names. God has many names: Allah, Jehovah, Yahweh, Govinda, Rama, Krishna, etc. Chant his name, and chant from

SEEKING/ C2

Yummy Teriyaki!
NEW!
BK TERIYAKI FESTIVAL
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Available in Beef, Chicken and Pork. Have it with rice or bun
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THE NEW
STAR CITY
NEWLY AIR-CONDITIONED
MORE SHOPPING & FOOD CHOICES
NEW RIDES & ATTRACTIONS
NOW WEATHER-PROOF

Enjoy twice the fun starting September 12 featuring an all-new air-conditioned 2nd floor, for the "coolest" Christmas shopping experience. Plus, check out Star City's new top-rate attraction "Land of the Giants" and theater spectacles "Belen" and "Can-Can."

Brought to you by:

"Ituloy mo lang. You'll see, it's worth it."
– Mary Ann Gutierrez
Pocholo's mom
GIFTED CHILD
Pocholo Gutierrez
Classical Cellist

Gifted Child Pocholo moves listeners with his performances. This remarkable young musician began to play the violin at age 4, then moved on to a much bigger challenge – the cello. Pocholo finished what would normally be 3 years of cello classes in less than 1 year. Not only is he an exceptional musician, he is an outstanding student as well. He is a consistent recipient of academic excellence awards in his school.

"The secret to my Pocholo's beautiful gift? Our continuous support," reveals Pocholo's mother, Ann Gutierrez. She raised him on a ProGifted Formula throughout his early childhood. From the moment she saw potential in Pocholo, she did not stop nurturing his love for music. She continues to bring him to concerts and sees to it that Pocholo gets his training from the country's top musicians. *"Ituloy mo lang, and he will amaze you,"* she insists.

Along with providing your child with encouragement and a supportive environment, don't stop giving him the right nutrition. Nurture him with the ProGifted Formula for children 1 year onwards, Promil Kid. Promil Kid helps increase a child's capacity to learn. It has essential ingredients, specially formulated to help him reach his full potential.

When your child turns 1, continue nourishing his gift with Promil Kid.

Continue nourishing the gift.

Promil Kid
3
Stage

From 1 year onwards.

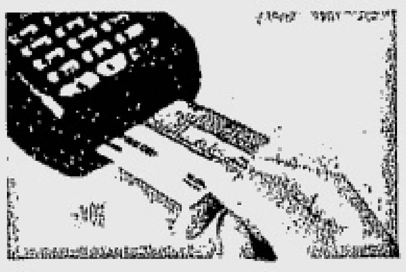
Wyeth

SM launches loyalty program

The SM Group, the country's largest retail conglomerate, has launched its own customer loyalty program. Called SM Advantage, the loyalty points-based program initially covers SM Department Store, SM Supermarket and Super SM Hypermarket in Metro Manila, Bacoor and Pampanga.

Offering an endless selection of rewards, freebies and privileges to its members, SM Advantage promises to be the biggest loyalty program in the Philippines. "Just when you thought we've already got it all, we come up with something bigger," says Rey Maclang, marketing head of Marketing Convergence, Inc., the SM affiliate responsible for the design, development and implementation of SM Advantage. According to Maclang, SM Advantage is "SM's way of thanking the millions of shoppers who continue to make SM their favorite shopping destination".

SM branches in the provinces, as well as the other SM retail affiliates and selected mall tenants, are expected to be included in the SM Advantage loyalty program sometime next year.



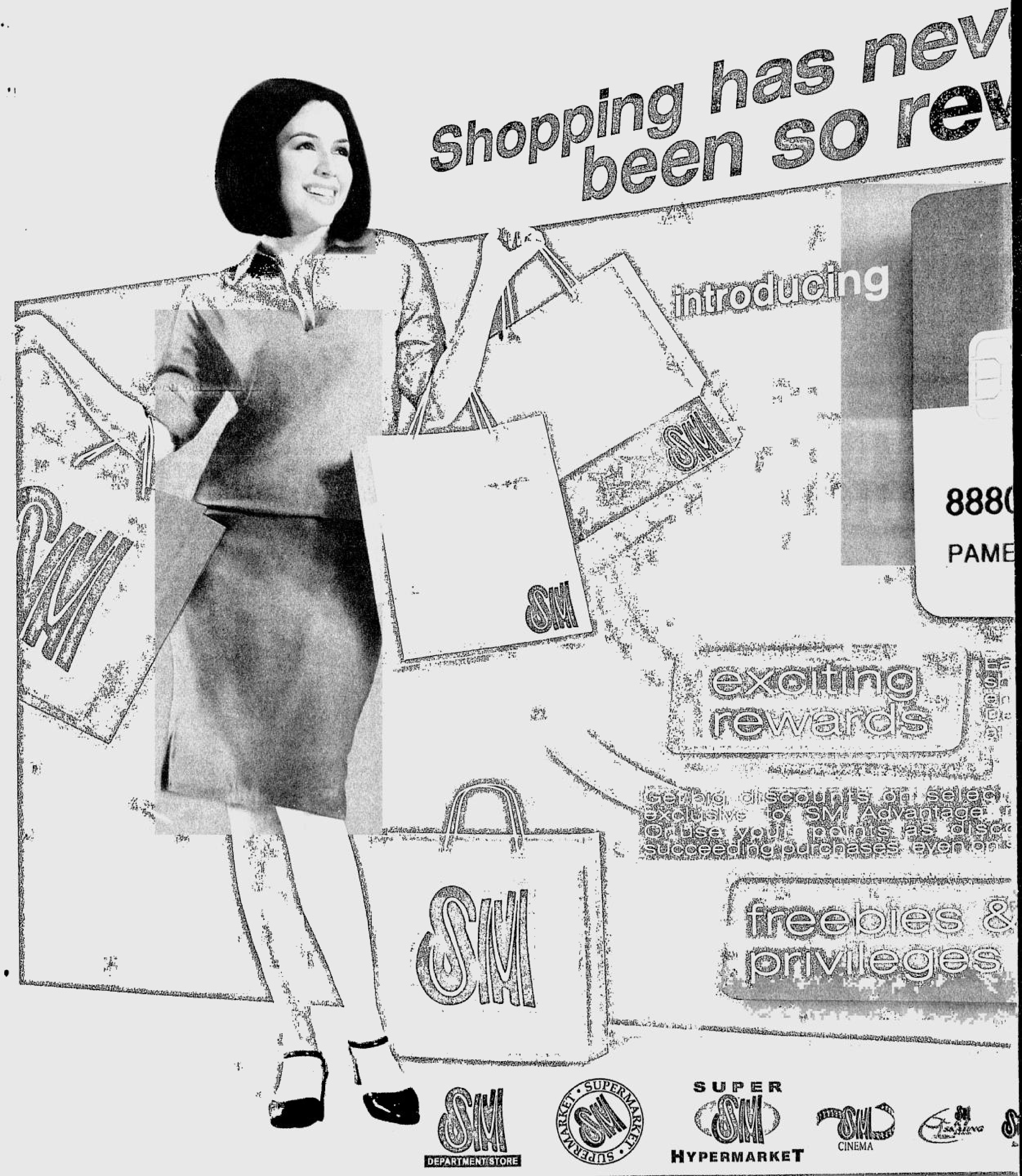
No other loyalty card gives you more!

Applying for an SM Advantage membership

The program's renewable two-year membership is open to everyone who is 18 years old and above. Minors between the ages of 12 and 17 must obtain parental consent in order to apply. Membership fee is pegged at P100.

Anyone wishing to be an SM Advantage member must fill out an application form and pay the membership fee in cash at any designated cashier's counter of SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, and Super SM Hypermarket. He should then submit the cashier-validated form, and present a valid ID, to any SM Advantage Booth or Counter located in these stores. After checking the application form for completeness, the Customer Service Assistant will give the applicant a claim stub indicating the date for claiming his personalized SM Advantage Card.

Membership application forms are available at the following: a) SM Department Store, SM Supermarket and Super SM Hypermarket; b) SM Cinema, SM Bowling Center, SM Ice Skating Rink, Storyland and participating amusement arcades in SM malls; c) other SM retail affiliates and d) Banco de Oro branches.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freebies &
privileges
DEPARTMENT STORE
SUPERMARKET
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CINEMA

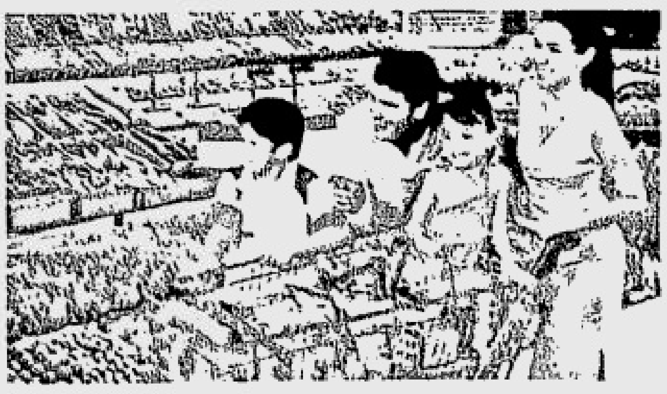
Apply Now! Visit the SM Advantage Booth or Counter at any SM Department Store, SM Supermarket and Supe

Initially available in Metro M

RETAIL PARTNERS

SM DEPARTMENT STORE
"We've got it all" one-stop shopping

The SM Advantage Loyalty Program gives new definition to smart shopping by rewarding customers for every peso they spend at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket and Super SM Hypermarket.


SM SUPERMARKET
Freshness at total lower cost everyday

SUPER SM HYPERMARKET
More choices at super prices for everyday living.

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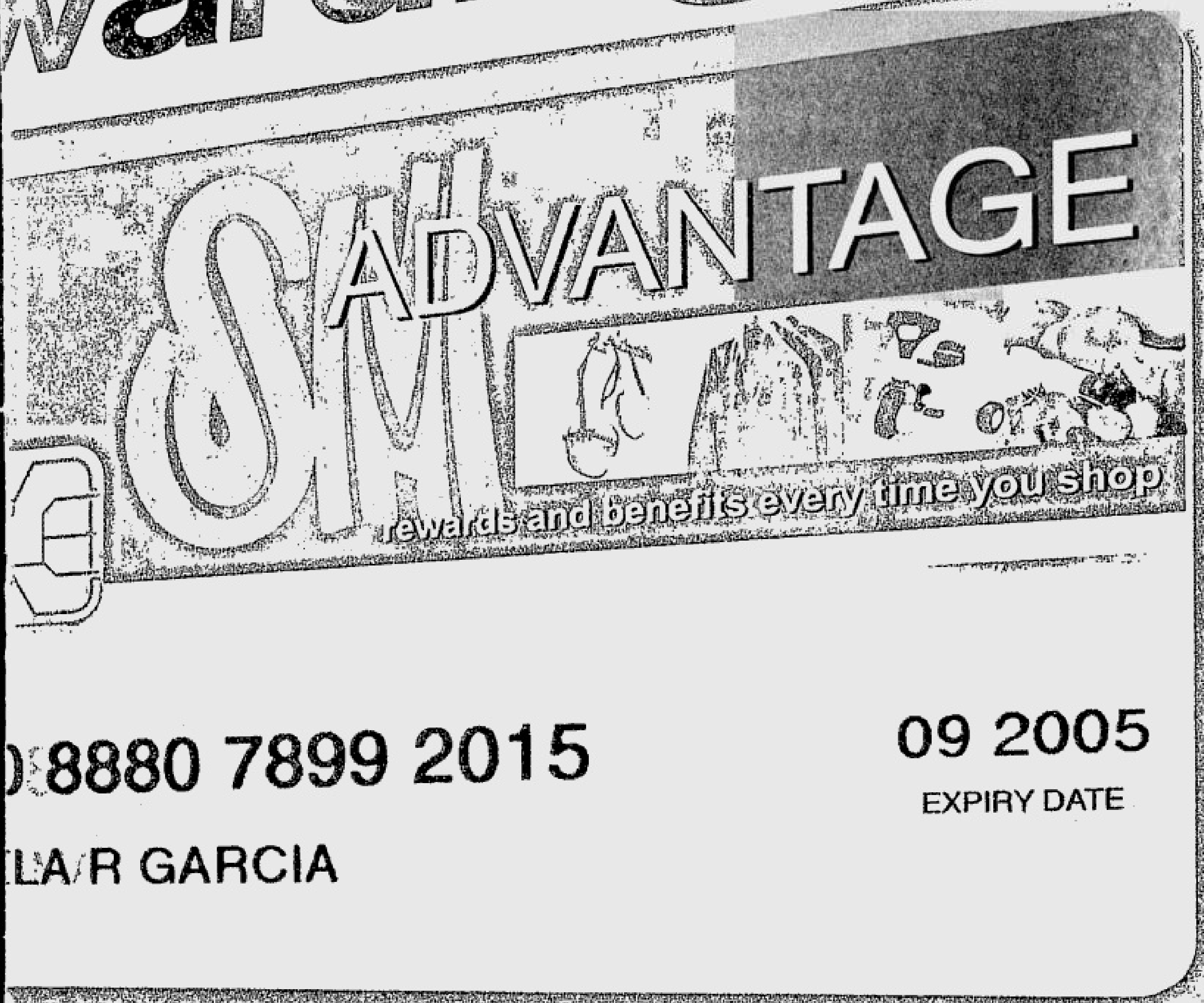

rewards points every time yo
l. To redeem, choose from a
less selection of items at SM
artment Store, SM Supermarket
Super SM Hypermarket

of items
embers
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ale items

more savings

Take advantage of exciting
freebies worth more than
P700 and exclusive member
privileges that you and your
family can enjoy.

freebies
privileges
specials
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big savings on great values in malls
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SM Hypermarket
anila, Bacoor and Pampanga

free mall perks coupons booklet
to the first 80,000 SM Advantage members

EXCITING REWARDS

SM Advantage points may be used to redeem an endless selection of exciting rewards categorized as follows:

In-Store Merchandise - Points earned may be exchanged for anything and everything sold at any SM Department Store, SM Supermarket and Super SM Hypermarket.

Exclusive Merchandise - A selection of seasonal specialty items available only through SM Advantage rewards points. SM Advantage cardholders may check them out at their nearest SM Department Store, SM Supermarket or Super SM Hypermarket branches.

Treats - Points may be used to treat the whole family to some fun and relaxation at SM Cinema, SM Bowling Center, SM Ice Skating Rink, Storyland and participating mall based amusement arcades in SM Malls: Quantum, Club Synergy, Worlds of Fun and Tom's World.

Points earned can be immediately used to redeem rewards on the next transaction, even on the same day.

On the other hand, up to six SM Advantage members may opt to pool their points in order to redeem an item of higher value.

EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGES

SM Advantage cardholders enjoy a long list of exclusive privileges which they can share with their family.

- **Exclusive discounts** on selected items.
- **10% discount** on SM Cinema rates
- **FREE** entry to Storyland, any day
- **50% OFF** on the first game at SM Bowling Center
- **50% OFF** on the first 2 hours at SM Ice Skating Rink
- Buy 3, get 1 **FREE** Storyland Ride-All-You-Can Tag
- **10% discount** on Storyland Party Packages
- Buy 10 tokens, get **2 FREE** at
  - Quantum
  - Club Synergy
  - Tom's World
  - Worlds of Fun

FREEBIES

The SM Advantage Card is pre-loaded with perks. Members automatically receive single-use freebie coupons worth over P700.

- **FREE** one (1) movie ticket when you buy two (2) at SM Cinema
- **FREE** one (1) regular-sized popcorn with purchase of a large drink from SM Cinema Snack Bar
- **FREE** one (1) game at SM Bowling Center
- **FREE** one (1) hour ice time at SM Ice Skating Rink
- **FREE** one (1) Storyland Ride-All-You-Can Tag
- **FREE** Club Storyland membership for one dependent
- Buy 20 tokens, get **6 FREE** at
  - Quantum
  - Club Synergy
  - Tom's World
  - Worlds of Fun

TOUCHPOINTS

To know more about the SM Advantage Loyalty Program, shoppers are invited to contact the following:

- **SM Advantage Counters and Booths in all SM Department Stores, SM Supermarkets and Super SM Hypermarkets.**
- **24-hour hotline 833-8888.**
- **www. sm-advantage.com.ph.** Log on for the latest SM Advantage promos, events and lifestyle tips.
- **Email help@sm-advantage. com.ph** for questions, comments or suggestions.

Filmfests screen Australian, European features

By Nestor U. Torre

THE FIRST Australian Film Festival is currently being held until Sept. 28 at Greenbelt 1 in Makati, the UP Film Center and the Ayala Center in Cebu City. This filmfest is particularly interesting because, for some years now, Australian filmmakers and actors have been making it big on the international film scene.

Instructive

It'll be instructive to see more than 10 of their movies shown together, because they could reveal attributes they hold in common that could explain why films from Down Under have been making such a major impact on the world scene.

The festival's launching film was "Lantana," a psychological thriller featuring one of the best Australian actors, Geoffrey Rush.

Other films to be screened are "Radiance," "Siam Street" "The Dish," "Floating Life," "Innocence;" "Kiss or Kill" and "Love Serenade."

In addition, movies not produced in Australia but topbilling stars from Down Under will also be shown:

"Two Hands," with Heath Ledger; "The Sum of Us," with Russell Crowe, "Thank God He Met Lizzie," with Cate Blanchett, and "Amy," with Rachel Griffiths. Call 757-8173.

Cine Europa 6

Meanwhile, Cine Europa 6 is ongoing at SM Megamall. Screening schedule:

Sept. 20, 2 p.m., "The Others." 4:30 p.m., "The Handcuff King." 7 p.m., "Karnaval." 9:30 p.m., "Professor of Arms." Sept. 21, 2 p.m., "Zuz and Zo." 4:30 p.m., "The Praying Mantis." 7 p.m., "Captains of April." 9:30 p.m., "Adult Behavior."

Sept. 22 at 2 p.m., "Magdalene Sisters." 4:30 p.m., "Shades." 7 p.m., "Nowehere in Africa." 9:30 p.m., "The Others." Sept. 23 at 2 p.m., "The Handcuff King." 4:30 p.m., "Karnaval." 7 p.m., "Profession of Arms." 9:30 p.m., "Zuz and Zo."

Sept. 24 at 2 p.m., "The Praying Mantis." 4:30 p.m., "Captains of April." 7 p.m., "Adult Behavior." 9:30 p.m., "Magdalene Sisters." Sept. 25 at 2 p.m., "Shades." 4:30 p.m., "Nowhere in Africa." 7 p.m., "The

FILMFESTS/ C7

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

FREDDY VS. JASON R13 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00	DADDY DAY CARE GP 12:20, 2:25, 4:30, 6:35	BASIC PG13 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30
MEDALLION PG13 1:30, 3:30, 5.30, 7:30, 9:30	S.W.A.T. PG13 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE PG13 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 · FREE SEATING · SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM · MON. TO FRI.

Hawkers Market
FOOD FESTIVAL
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
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2ND WEEK
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2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
HOW FAST DO YOU LIKE IT?
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SLAM-BANG "DESPERADO" ACTION !
EXPLODES SEPTEMBER 24 !
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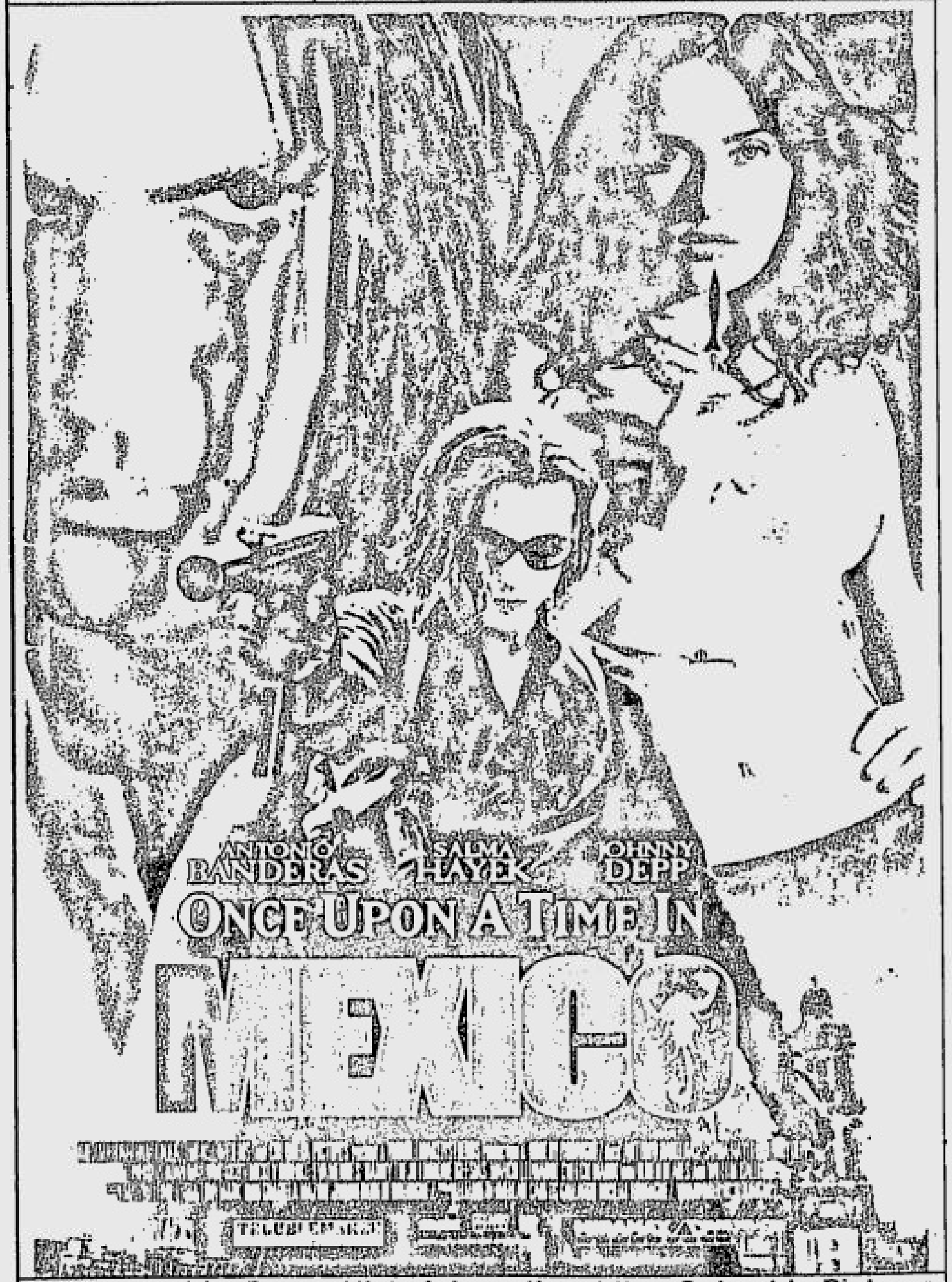
ANTONIO BANDERAS
SALMA HAYEK
JOHNNY DEPP
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COLUMBIA

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Some ghosts will scare you to death!
The award-winning lead star of this film has died recently in the same mysterious and terrifying circumstances suffered by the character he has portrayed... Ikaw, handa ka rin bang saniban para maniwalang totoo ang multo?
THIS IS THE SCARIEST MOVIE YOU'LL EVER SEE ABOUT REAL GHOSTS
TIYAKING MAY MGA KASAMA PARA MAS MALAKAS ANG SIGAWAN NA TANGING PANGONTRA UPANG DI SAPITIN ANG SINAPIT SA TOTOONG BUHAY NG BIDANG ARTISTA.
MTRCB RATING ▷ PG-13
INNER SENSES
異度空間
LESLIE CHEUNG KARENA LAM
Directed by LO CHI-LEUNG
September 24, Wednesday

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
Ali 2	1ST TIME
Ali 3	THE MEDALLION
Ali 4	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
Ali 5	FREDDIE VS. JASON
Ali 6	S.W.A.T.
Ali 7	BASIC

ARANETA COLISEUM

SEPT 21	UAAP FINAL FOUR
SEPT 25	UAAP: FINAL FOUR
SEPT 26	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS REPEAT
SEPT 27	UAAP FINALS GAME 1
SEPT 28	PBA : FED EX VS ALASKA
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#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS
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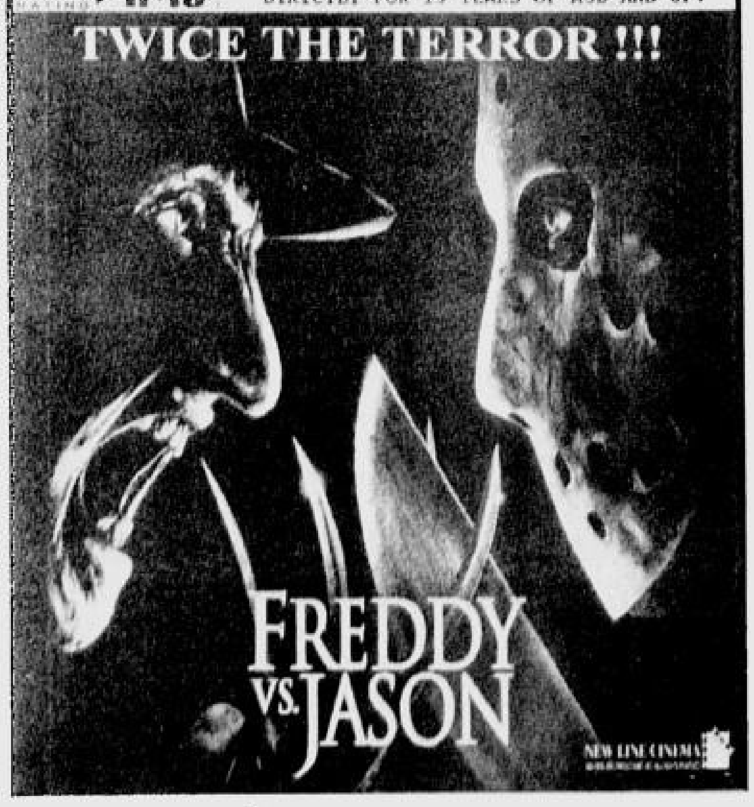
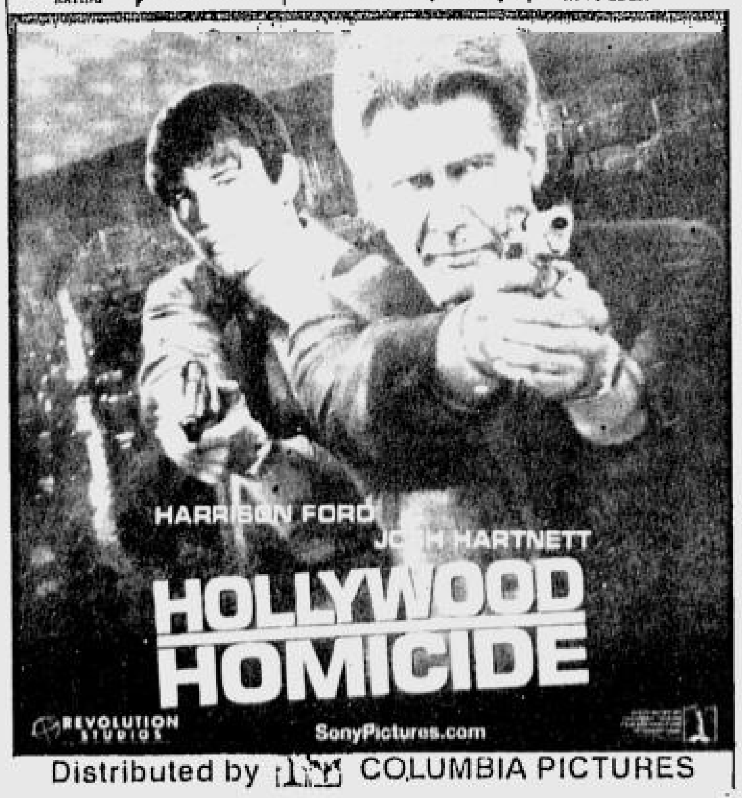
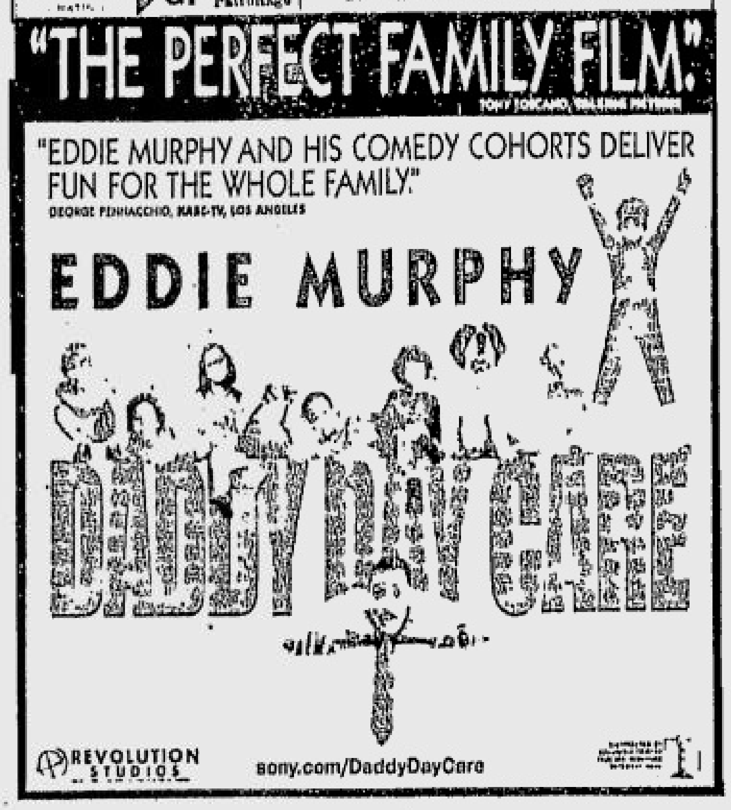

TWICE THE TERROR !!!
FREDDY VS. JASON
NEW LINE CINEMA

"2 Thumbs Up!" for Harrison Ford & Josh Hartnett
4TH MAXIMUM ACTION DAY !
MTRCB RATING ▷ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


HARRISON FORD
JOSH HARTNETT
HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
SonyPictures.com

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Fun & heartwarming entertainment for everyone you love!
2ND 'LAUGH OUT LOUD' WEEK !
MTRCB RATING ▷ GP General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED


"THE PERFECT FAMILY FILM."
"EDDIE MURPHY AND HIS COMEDY COHORTS DELIVER FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY."
GEORGE PENNACCHIO, KABC-TV, LOS ANGELES
EDDIE MURPHY
DADDY DAY CARE
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
sony.com/DaddyDayCare

Filmfests screen . . .

From page C6

Others." 9:30 p.m., "The Handcuff King."

Sept. 26 at 2 p.m., "Karnaval." 4:30 p.m., "Professor of Arms." 7 p.m., "Zuz and Zo." 9:30 p.m., "The Praying Mantis." Sept. 27 at 2 p.m., "Captains of April." 4:30 p.m., "Adult Behavior." 7 p.m., "Magdalene Sisters." 9:30 p.m., "The Carriers Are Waiting."

Sept. 28 at 2 p.m., "Nowhere in Africa." 4:30 p.m., "The Others." 7 p.m., "The Handcuff King." 9:30 p.m., "Karnaval."

The 10 movies being screened were produced in Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

SM CINEMA
THE EUROPEAN UNION
present

TITLE: CINE EUROPA
TAKE: 6

CONNECTING CULTURES THROUGH CINEMA

September 18 - 28, 2003 • SM Megamall Cinema 6

Date	2:00 pm	4:30 pm	7:00 pm	9:30 pm
Sept. 18			The Praying Mantis (Austria)	Captains of April (Portugal)
Sept. 18	Adult Behavior (Sweden)	Charlotte Gray (UK)	The Carriers are Waiting (Belgium)	Nowhere in Africa (Germany)
Sept. 20	The Others (Spain)	The Handcuff King (Finland)	Karnaval (France)	Profession of Arms (Italy)
Sept. 21	Zus & Zo (The Netherlands)	The Praying Mantis (Austria)	Captains of April (Portugal)	Adult Behavior (Sweden)
Sept. 22	Charlotte Gray (UK)	Shades (Belgium)	Nowhere in Africa (Germany)	The Others (Spain)
Sept. 23	The Handcuff King (Finland)	Karnaval (France)	Profession of Arms (Italy)	Zus & Zo (The Netherlands)
Sept. 24	The Praying Mantis (Austria)	Captains of April (Portugal)	Adult Behavior (Sweden)	Charlotte Gray (UK)
Sept. 25	Shades (Belgium)	Nowhere in Africa (Germany)	The Others (Spain)	The Handcuff King (Finland)
Sept. 26	Karnaval (France)	Profession of Arms (Italy)	Zus & Zo (The Netherlands)	The Praying Mantis (Austria)
Sept. 27	Captains of April (Portugal)	Adult Behavior (Sweden)	The Magdalene Sisters (UK)	The Carriers are Waiting (Belgium)
Sept. 28	Profession of Arms (Italy)	The Others (Spain)	The Handcuff King (Finland)	Karnaval (France)

October 2 - 4, 2003 • SM City Cebu Theatre 1

Date	11:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	9:00 pm
Oct. 2						Nowhere in Africa (Germany)	
Oct. 3	The Others (Spain)	The Handcuff King (Finland)	Karnaval (France)	Profession of Arms (Italy)	Zus and Zo (The Netherlands)		The Praying Mantis (Austria)
Oct. 4	Adult Behavior (Sweden)	Charlotte Gray (UK)	The Carriers Are Waiting (Belgium)	Nowhere in Africa (Germany)	The Others (Spain)		Shades (Belgium)

ADMISSION IS FREE

SERGIO MENDES
BRASIL 2003
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
LANI MISALUCHA
LIVE AT

STAR CITY, CCP COMPLEX
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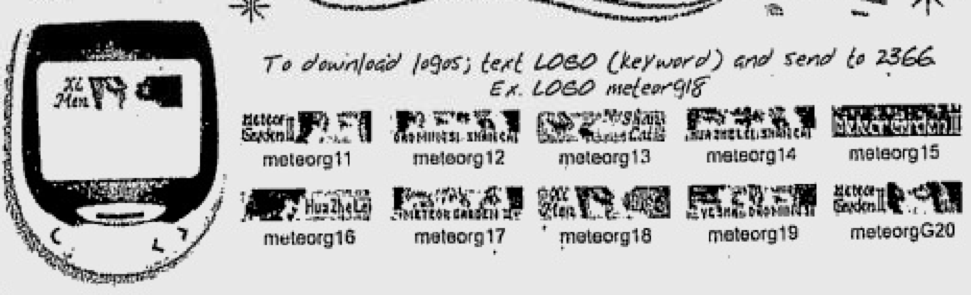

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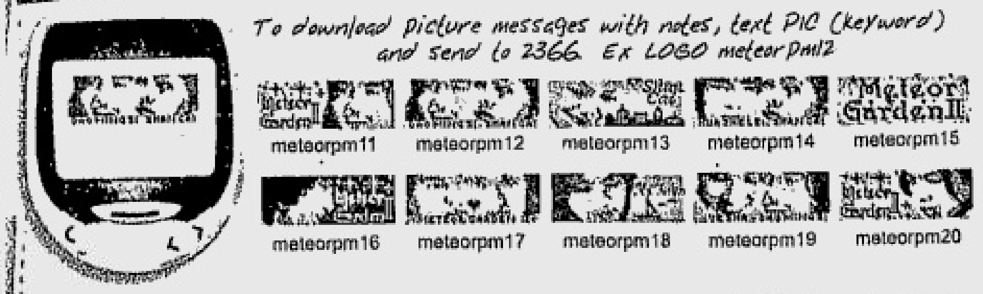

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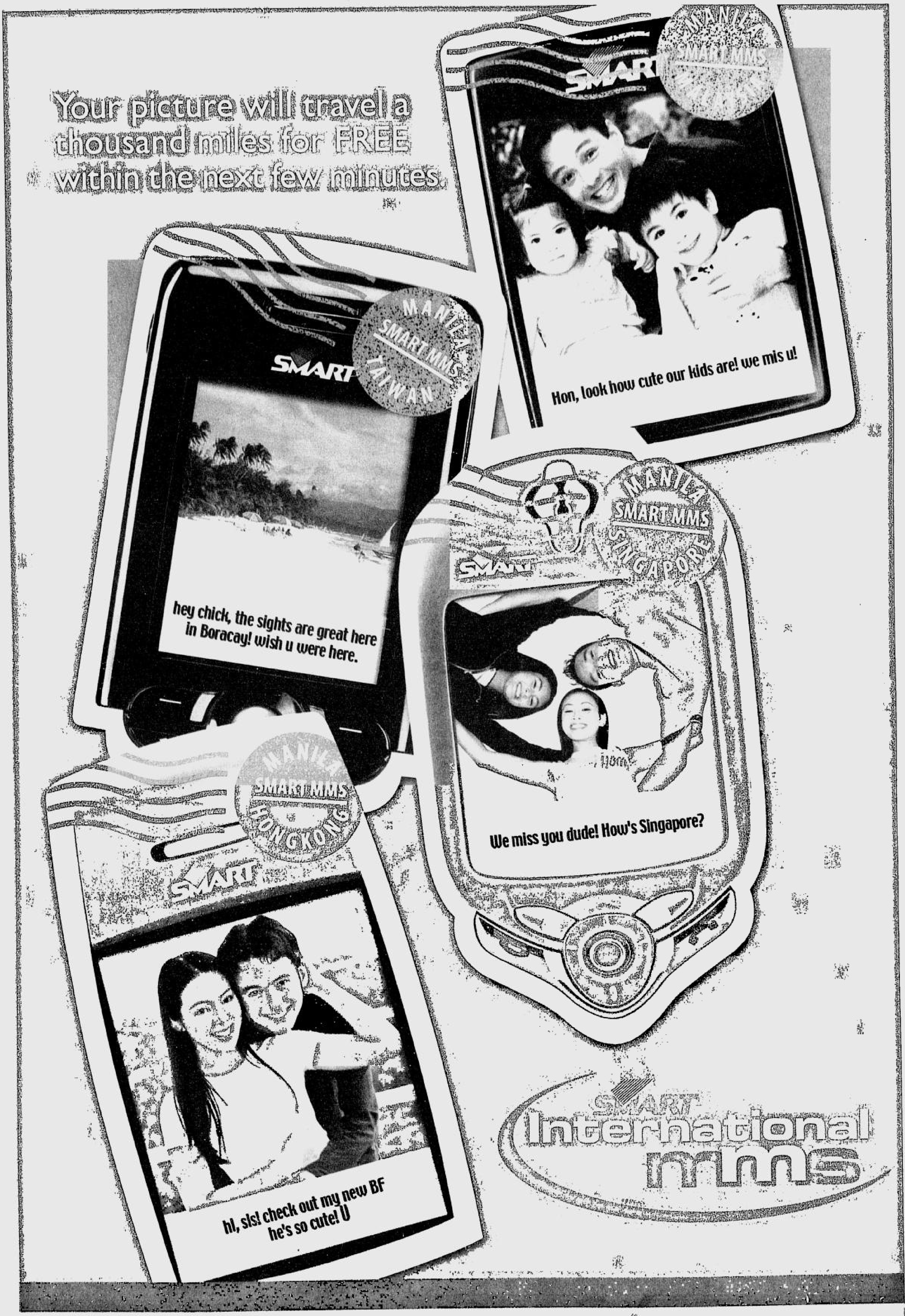
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SATURDAY Special

Brad Pitt works hard to stay on top

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM Jane Salud: **"Brad Pitt is a mystery to me. He is talented and gorgeous, but people know little about him. Is it true he finished journalism in college?"**

Brad Pitt didn't *really* finish journalism. He left the University of Missouri two credits short of graduating from the course. It came as a surprise to people who knew him. After all, he was a student leader who was active in sports, student government, the debating team and—take note—stage musicals!

Giant chicken

Before hitting the bigtime, he supported himself by driving strippers in limousines, moving refrigerators and dressing up as a giant chicken while working for "El Pollo Loco"—!

According to a movie database, Pitt's first starring role in a feature film was in "Dark Side of the Sun," shot in pre-war Yugoslavia in 1988, but released only nine years later.

As the movie's editing neared completion, civil war tore the region apart and much of the footage was lost. In 1996, after a five-year search, the footage was found and returned to producer Angelo Arandjelovic. Pitt was paid $1,523 per week for seven weeks' work.

Six-pack physique

After an Emmy nomination ("Friends"), a Golden Globe win and an Oscar citation ("Twelve Monkeys"), Pitt has successfully transcended roles that merely showed off his pretty boy looks and buffed, six-pack physique, which was the case with his scene-stealing, breakthrough character—a role for which he was only the third choice—in "Thelma and Louise." William Baldwin was slated to do it but left the project to star in Ron Howard's "Backdraft."

In no time, Brad's golden boy appeal catapulted him to heartthrob status, and later earned him People Magazine's coveted "Sexiest Man Alive" title, which was further fueled on the world wide web by naked photos of Brad on a beach with former flame Gwyneth Paltrow.

He saw his paycheck rise from $6,000 ("Thelma and Louise"), $4 million ("Seven"), $10 million ("Sleepers") to $17.5 million (the upcoming "Troy"). He earned $30 million in "Ocean's Eleven" after agreeing to a pay cut of $10 million in exchange for backend participation through a percentage of the gross.

Pitt wanted to prove that he was more than just a pretty face. So, he carefully chose roles that would showcase his acting ability more than his physical attributes. His body of work is impressive: "Seven," "Interview With The Vampire," "12 Monkeys," "Fight Club," "Cool World," etc.

Dedication

His dedication to his craft is equally remarkable: Pitt had to learn how to fly-cast for "A River Runs Through It." He practiced on top of buildings in Hollywood. During those practices, Pitt would sometimes hook himself in the back of his head. *Ouch!*

He turned down "Apollo 13" to accept his Oscar-nominated role in "12 Monkeys." He was considered for the lead in "The Matrix," but we all know who ended up playing Neo.

While it is true that being a celebrity has its perks, it also has its downside: In 1999, a girl broke into Pitt's Hollywood home shortly after midnight, dressed herself in his clothes and stayed for 10 hours before the alarm went off.

In 1995, he "won" a Razzie award ("Worst Screen Couple") with Tom Cruise for "Interview With The Vampire," a distinction they shared in a tie with Sylvester Stallone and Sharon Stone for "The Specialist." *(To be concluded)*

PITT was active in sports and stage musicals.

Exceptional actors in new starrers

By Nestor U. Torre

AMONG the films coming soon to our screens, these are some of the standouts:

"Runaway Jury," starring three exceptional actors—Dustin Hoffman, Gene Hackman and John Cusack. This thespic powerhouse is not to be missed.

Thriller

The film, based on a novel by John Grisham, is a thriller set in New Orleans, where a young widow brings a civil suit against the powerful consortium she holds responsible for her husband's murder. The twist here is that the suit may be won or lost even before it begins—based solely on the selection, manipulation and attempted "theft" of the jury.

Hackman plays a ruthless jury "consultant" who stops at nothing to secure a favorable verdict for his client. The legal fixer wages a deadly battle with a jury member (Cusack) and an honest lawyer (Hoffman).

Rachel Weisz is also in the cast, as a mysterious woman who contacts Hoffman and Hackman to tell them that the jury is for sale to either of them—but it won't come cheap. The plot thickens!

Inheritance

Meanwhile, "Uptown Girls" stars Brittany Murphy as the daughter of a dead rock star. She lives off her inheritance and has never worked a day in her life. When her father's estate is swindled away from her, she suddenly finds that her life of luxury and excess has ended, and she has to live in the real world, for the first time in her life.

Grudgingly, she looks for a job, and is hired as a nanny for the young daughter of a record executive. Heather Locklear plays the executive, and Dakota Fanning is her daughter.

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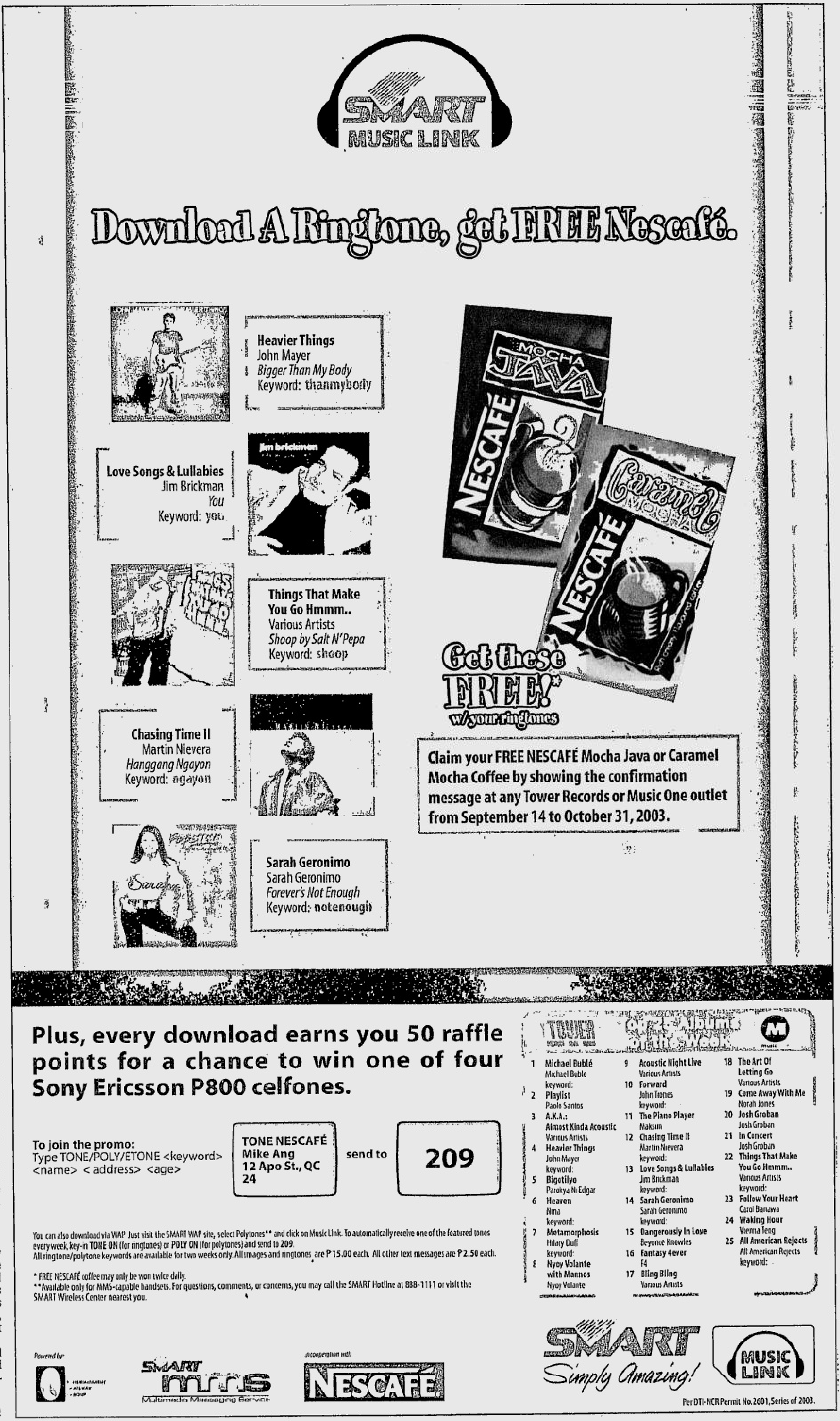
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CH	2	4	5	7	9	[illegible]	23	29	[illegible]
	6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:00 Home Along da Airport 9:30 Buttercup 10:30 Kontrobersyal! 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 To be Announced	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Search for a Star 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	5:00 PBA Provincial Game 7:00 Kitscelera 8:00 Amazing Twins 9:00 US Tennis Open 11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	6:00 Baywatch 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 The Amazing Race 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Real Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:00 Ang Tanging Ina 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	4:00 2003 Samsung-PBA Invitational Championsips 9:00 The Working President 10:00 Concert of Various Artist	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Ispup atbp. 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	6:00 PBA First Filipino cup 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Global Family Series 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Jimmy Neutron 6:30 Futurama 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Bachelor 10:30 Digital Tour	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! Coming Attractions 6:30 FYE 7:00 E! Original Specials 8:00 Rank 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 Movies on E!
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7:30 Game K N B? 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Insider 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Family Rosary Crusade 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 F 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Endless Love 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Da Boy and Da Girl 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	6:00 Dulce Maria 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 The Agency 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 OPTV	6:00 Quantum Info 6:30 Global Family Series 7:00 Japan Video Topics 9:00 Global Family Series 9:30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Birds of Prey 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7:30 Game K N B? 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 11:00 Insider 11:30 Mission X	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Campus TV 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Wedding Works 11:00 Bugs	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Endless Love 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Kool Ka Lang 11:00 Saksi 11:30 The Probe Team	6:00 Dulce Maria 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 GSIS @ Ur Service 11:00 Sports in Focus	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 US Tennis Open 8:00 Global Family Series 9:00 Japan Video Topics 10:00 Travel 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Up Close and Personal	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Smallville 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
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Exceptional actors in new starrers

From page D1

Murphy's romantic interest in "Uptown Girls" is played by new Australian heartthrob Jesse Spencer. At first, he and Murphy's character can't get along, but she eventually shakes off her spoiled-brat ways, she and Spencer discover they have a lot in common, and a strong bond is formed.

Finally, "Identity" is billed as "twisted thriller." In the film, 10 strangers with secrets are brought together in a savage rainstorm.

Family in crisis

The characters include a limo driver (John Cusack), an '80s TV star (Rebecca DeMornay), a cop (Ray Liotta) who is transporting a killer (Jake Busey), a call girl (Amanda Peet), a newlywed couple (Clea Duvall and William Lee Scott), and a family in crisis (John C. McGinley, Leila Kenzle and Bret Loehr).

They all take shelter in a desolate motel run by a nervous night manager (John Hawkes). Their relief at finding shelter is quickly replaced by fear, as they begin to die, one by one.

They soon realize that, if they are to survive, they'll have to uncover the secret that has brought them all together. —Shades of Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians"!

"Identity" is written and directed by James Mangold, who first impressed both critics and viewers with "Girl, Interrupted."

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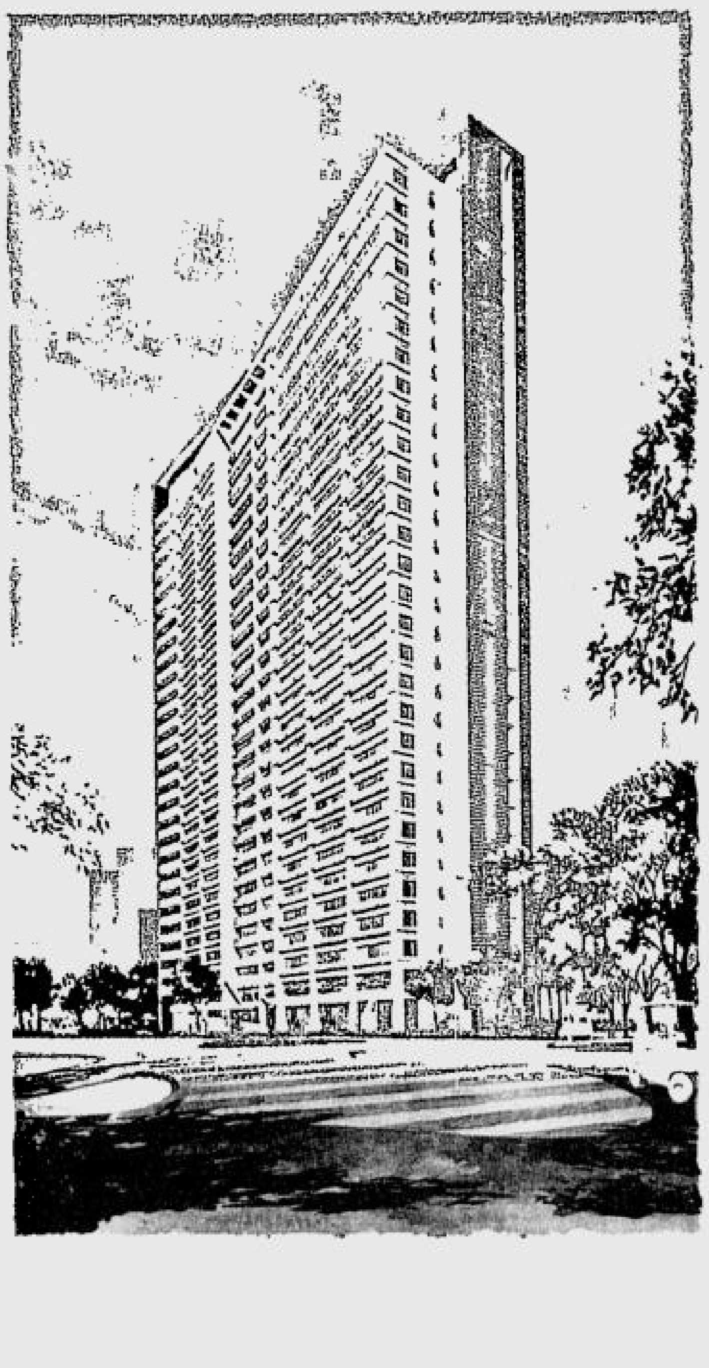
The Philtown Team
Headed by *Rally Martinez (3rd from left)*
Edward de Castro, Kit Vergara, & Mon Bienvenida



Joey Concepcion
Chairman, Philtown

As the man behind RFM's driven proposition to consumers, Joey embarks on another project that offers the perfect prize to Filipino families on the hunt for a good real estate buy. Together with the Philtown team, he sets out the vision of a residential project thriving on the most current design technologies while maintaining reasonable pricing, literally building a haven of value. He stresses that Philtown is not just a factory of condos – mass-producing them and in the process, leaving buyers somewhat less than satisfied when they finally move in. "We are selective in our projects, giving more emphasis on quality over quantity," Joey says.

Tina Periquet
Interior Designer, studio model unit

"A condo unit can be a home you'll want to stay in... not just a place where you can sleep then leave."

An embodiment of simple elegance herself, Tina has formed the pale-beige walls of the studio model unit into a palette accentuated by multiple levels of light that creates an illusion of space. She has cleverly convinced people to think that the studio has more than its 40 square meters.

Michael Edmonds and John Grimshaw
Design Directors, Edmonds International SA de CV

Michael and John agree that Fairways Tower is indeed a new approach to quality high-rise residential living.

Excellent location, efficient planning, simple quality materials, modern aesthetic and affordability – these basic principles compliment the building's architecture for luxury living, through fully utilizing light, space, technology and nature.

"Fairways Tower reflects the international style that's so successful in many of the world's great cities, London, Paris and New York."

Martha Orosa-Uy
Interior Designer,
1-bedroom model unit

Inspired by her different travels, Martha shows passion in capturing the innermost desires of the homeowner. That's why she never fails to bring romance in her designs, which range from British to Scandinavian. This time having a classic oriental look for the 1-bedroom model unit, she fills it with modern touches that will make you fall in love with the suite. But no matter what dreamland she's created, she insists that this modern residential building is a world of wonders on its own.

"Fairways Tower's appeal is in its location, and the building itself. It's being at the right place, at the right time."

Anton Mendoza
Interior Designer, 2-bedroom model unit

Anton set up everything cohesive from the furniture to the color schemes in the 2-bedroom model unit. So much so that it seems to extend to the amazing scenery of the fairways that reposes beyond its window. His dusk-toned design has an organic feel, one that has a deep connection with the earth.

"Interior design today is more global, mixing styles from different cultures. And Fairways Tower has adapted this union of influences."

Dr. Go Chi Bun: *Feng Shui Expert*

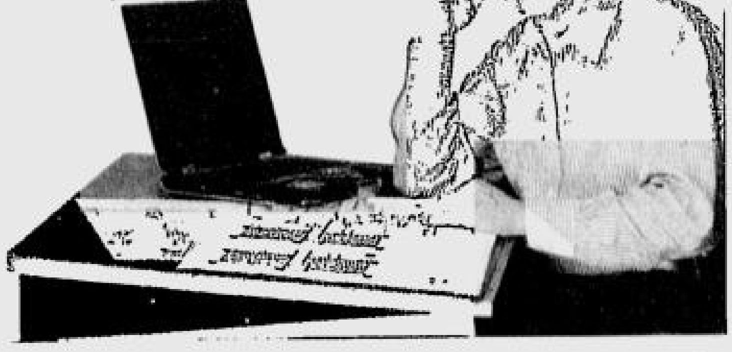
Dr. Go, who also practices Traditional Chinese Medicine, has an exact calculation of what will bring good health and prosperity. So with his huge influence, the building's architecture kept in mind the flow of Chi that will guide the passage of fortune in Fairways Tower.

"The Fairways Tower faces lucky stars from both the front and back sides... and that the Chi, or Life Force, can flow freely through the entrance doors."

Architect Roger Villarosa
Managing Partner, R. Villarosa Architects
Partner & Associates

Arch. Villarosa, the country's leading master builder, says that we are experiencing a transition. From postmodern, designs are going back to the basics. Simplified and efficient, yet still giving priority to luxury. That's why Fairways Tower is designed for safety and convenience, while taking advantage of the breathtaking golf link view.

"Condo living is a practical art. It's a mix of structural stability and aesthetics."



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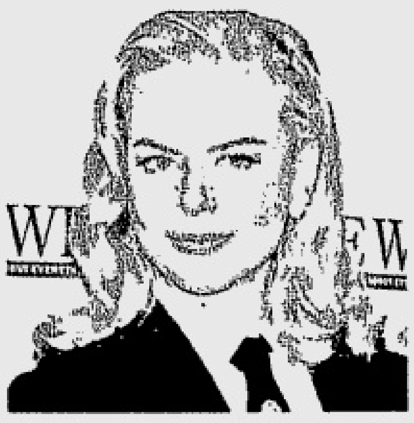

KIDMAN. Stars in "Dogville" and "The Human Stain."

Toronto filmfest ends today

TORONTO—The star-studded 28th Toronto International Film Festival wraps up today with the international premiere of Australian fantasy flick, "Danny Deckchair." The 10-day festival—among the world's most important, alongside Cannes, Berlin and Venice—screened 336 films from 55 countries, including 64 world premieres.

Paparazzi

Besides the paparazzi following actors like Nicole Kidman, Meg Ryan, Omar Sharif and Denzel Washington who are here to promote their latest films, scores of moviegoers and celebrity gawkers lined red carpets to get a glimpse of the stars.

But the festival, which generated US$49 million for the local economy last year, is also serious about business, with several North American distribution deals getting off the ground or signed here.

More than 300 buyers and sellers have viewed features hoping to find a gem in the rough, like when "American Beauty" emerged here in 1999.

Biggest prize

Unlike other international, cash-prized festivals, the Toronto festival's biggest prize is a People's Choice Award, whose winner usually goes on to commercial success.

Past winners include "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Amelie."

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Vhong Navarro struts his way to solo stardom

By Andy P. Bais

NAVARRO. Topbills "Gagamboy."

WHEN it rains, it pours. This seems to be the case of the show biz career of young comedian Vhong Navarro. He was seen in three films recently: "Keka," "Pinay Pie" and "Asboobs."

Pinoy spoof

He has just wrapped up work on his Metro filmfest entry this year, "Gagamboy," where he plays the title role in the Pinoy spoof on the Marvel comic character. He is set to start working on his launching movie based on a character from the Parokya ni Edgar hit song, "Mr. Suave." Joyce Bernal directs the Star Cinema production.

In between movie commitments, he tapes for his two regular TV shows on ABS-CBN, "Bida si Mister..." and "Whattamen."

Vhong couldn't be happier with the way his show biz career is going. "*Dati kasi, tuwang-tuwa na ako na madaanan ng* camera," says the erstwhile bit player in films directed by Chito Rono, his discoverer and manager.

Fixture

As a child, Vhong's dream was to be a dancer. "Idol *ko kasi si* Michael Jackson," he quips. As a grade school student, he was a fixture in dance competitions. "*Kahit* third place, *masaya na ako*," he grins.

His first break came in 1993 when he auditioned for a slot in an all-boy dance group. Luckily, he made the grade and became one of the Streetboys, whose members included Spencer Reyes, Jhong Hilario and Danilo Barrios.

Direk Chito must have sensed that, among his wards, Vhong had comic flair. Vhong started his solo career when Roño sent him to the "Super Laff-In" audition and he became one of its mainstays, before he joined "Pwedeng-Pwede" (with Robin Padilla) and "Home Along Da Riles."

He has fond memories of working with Dolphy in "Home Along Da Riles." He was humbled by the Comedy King's professionalism: "*May isang eksena na nilagyan ng sipit ng* crab *ang kanyang ilong*. With his stature, he could have said no. *Pero pumayag siya. Walang ka-angal-angal*," he reveals.

Dolphy gave Vhong an important tip on how to be an effective comedian: "*Di ka dapat magpatawa*, the moment you do this, trying-hard *ang dating mo. Dapat, hayaan mo ang tao'ng matawa sa nangyayari sa sitwasyon*."

Apparently, Vhong has taken that rule to heart. Many of his contemporaries consider him a natural and effective comic.

Urian nomination

Fellow actors and critics raved about his performance in "Jologs," where he earned an Urian nomination for Best Actor. "I was happy with the nomination even if I didn't get the trophy," he shares.

"Got To Believe," the film that starred Claudine Barretto and the late Rico Yan, is another film that he is proud of. "*Napansin ako ng mga taga*-La Salle *at* Ateneo. *Pag nakikita nila ako*, 'Oh, you're the funny guy in 'Got To Believe!' *Pero di pa rin nila kilala ang pangalan ko*," he jokes.

Vhong considers his recent performance in "Maalaala Mo Kaya," where he played the role of Tita Swarding, as his most challenging. "I requested *na magkita kami* before taping started. *Pagkagising ko pa lang sa umaga*, feel *ko na ang* character *niya hanggang pagdating sa* set. *Nahirapan lang akong gayahin ang tawa niya*," he sighs.

The 26-year-old comic dreams of starring in action and comedy flicks like Jackie Chan and Will Smith. He also wants to portray the role of a psycho killer *a la* Anthony Hopkins. "*Gusto ko kasi, mata lang ang umaarte*," he says.

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Celebrities picked as 10 Most Beautiful People

BLANCO. Achiever from the world of entertainment.

THE SECOND year of V Magazine will be celebrated with a tribute to its 10 Most Beautiful People on Monday, Sept. 22, at 6:30 p.m., at the Grand Ballroom, Century Park Hotel.

Scholarships

Sister publication Mind, an education magazine, will be launched with scholarships granted to streetchildren through the GMA Kapuso Foundation. Hosting the event are Bianca Araneta and Richard C. Signey.

V Magazine's 10 Most Beautiful People come from entertainment, fashion, broadcasting and politics.

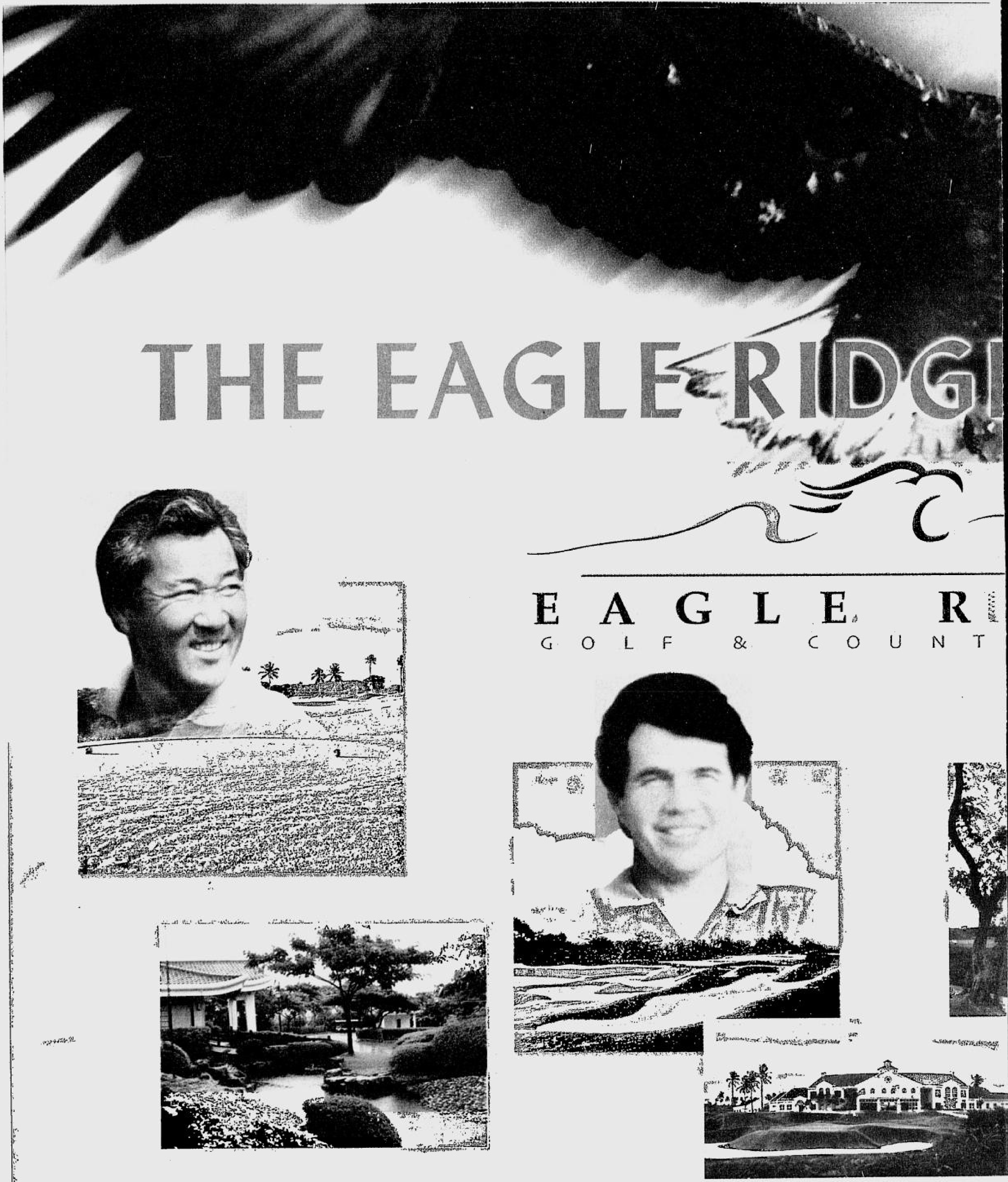
The entertainment personalities are Kris Aquino, Jackielou Blanco, Eula Valdez, Heart Evangelista, Paolo Montalban and Piolo Pascual.

Rissa Samson, Amanda Griffin, Pia Hontiveros and Imee Marcos complete the list.

Popularity

The 10 awardees were chosen on the basis on popularity, influence and accomplishments. Intimate portraits of each are to be found in V Mag's September issue, with Lucy Torres on the cover.

Capping the celebration are performances by Aliya Parcs, Arnee Hidalgo, new acoustic artist Daryl Shy, and stand-up comedian Tim Tayag, who have all graced V Mag in the last two years.



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championship golf courses, two dedicated golf clubhouses and a main club with the most comprehensive sports and country club facilities in the country

Most importantly our flight of world class golf courses is now complete with the opening of the Greg Norman signature course. The Norman Course join
courses designed by Isao Aoki, Andy Dye and Nick Faldo making Eagle Ridge one of Asia's largest with 72 superb holes.

Members and guests are welcome to join the day long festivities lined up today to commemorate the blessing and inauguration of the completed **Eagle**

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STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IN the old days, it was simply a matter of learning the 3Rs—Reading, 'Riting, and 'Rithmetic. Teachers taught while students listened and learned.

Students

Times have certainly changed. The Esteban International School prepares students to enter school systems here and abroad. And since the students at Esteban are mostly expatriates, the study of foreign languages has become an indispensable part of the curriculum, with Spanish and Filipino as second languages.

Meanwhile, the MBA program will be flying in Mr. Chris Perryer on Oct. 2 to facilitate the Management of Organizations class. He teaches at the University of Western Australia, and brings with him 20 years of experience in the field of HRM.

MBA program

The University of Western Australia, in cooperation with the Esteban International School, offers a unique classroom-based MBA program, an 18-month, non-thesis program held in Makati. UWA's Graduate School of Management is ranked among the top three business schools in Australia. If you are interested in the program, please contact Howard or Tony at 844-2812 and 887-6390 or 6391. Or E-mail: esteban@i-next.net or call 844-9913 or 15 for grade school, 843-9065 or 845-4190 for pre-school.

* * *

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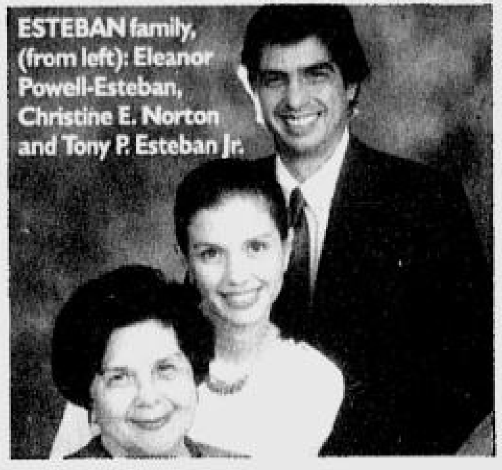

ESTEBAN family, (from left): Eleanor Powell-Esteban, Christine E. Norton and Tony P. Esteban Jr.

EAGLE RIDGE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB TO HOLD INAUGURAL EVENT TO MARK COMPLETION

Eagle Ridge Golf & Country Club, one of the largest golf sites in Asia and the only 72-hole course in the country, further boosts its capabilities with the completion of its entire golf complex. This accomplishment brings into full operation of all four-championship courses and its service facilities, which include the main club, and two satellite clubhouses. These clubhouses offer services and amenities that allow Eagle Ridge to offer the most comprehensive sports, recreational and country club facilities.

Property developer Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. and landowner Alsons Land Inc. have carried out all its commitments with the delivery of the last 18-hole championship course and the final touches are being done on the main clubhouses, a complex that enclose three facilities: the Main Golf Clubhouse, the Family Clubhouse, and the Sports Annex. The complex encloses an area of 1.2 hectares (12,000 square meters).

To celebrate the much-anticipated completion, Eagle Ridge will hold an Inaugural Weekend on September 20. A golf tournament will be held at the four golf courses that will highlight the playability of the golf estate's fourth championship course, the Norman course. A daylong sports clinics and exhibitions will be capped by the inauguration of the Main Golf Clubhouse, and followed by a concert featuring APO Hiking Society, children's shows and pyrotechnics display. Inquiries may be telephoned through 046-4192855.

Eagle Ridge planners said that the Main Clubhouse is a highlight of the estate, as it is the centerpiece of the estate's complement of clubhouses. The currently operating clubhouses are satellite amenities catering to the individual championship courses. But the Main Clubhouse is intended to be the hub of the estate's services to the golfers' families and guests.

The Main Golf Clubhouse is the largest clubhouse in the estate, and will provide full cuisine services to golfers after a full day golfing. Here, golfers can lounge and dine in style, and purchase golfing gear and accessories at the pro shop.

Adjacent to the Main Clubhouse is the Family Clubhouse, which provides a complete range of non-golf recreational and leisure activities. The Family Clubhouse has its own 14-lane bowling alley, a 144-seat DTS cinema (which will hold regular screenings of movies), swimming pool lagoon with a white sand oasis, a billiard alley, snack and juice bar, and playroom for toddlers.

Annexed to the Family Clubhouse is two-level lounge deck that offers a panoramic view of the rolling fairways of two adjacent Norman and Faldo courses.

The Sports Annex is a separate building connected to the Family Clubhouse. It houses indoor courts for basketball, three badminton courts; two tennis courts and a gym equipped with nautilus machines.

"There is no golf facility in the country as large and inviting as Eagle Ridge Golf & Country Club," said Engr. Winnie Gob, Project Director of the Eagle Ridge Golf & Country Club. "Each of its four championship golf courses has distinct skill challenges conjured by four of the best course designers in the world. Main Clubhouse and two satellite clubhouses offer services to pamper golfers, from Japanese and choice cuisine to spa and sauna facilities. The golfers' family and non-playing guests will be pampered, as the Family Clubhouse and Sports Annex has the offerings to make the whole day enjoyable."

Eagle Ridge Golf & Country Club is part of the 700-hctare self-contained golf and residential estates in General Trias, Cavite. The whole estate has 72 holes laid out in four 18-hole championship courses designed by four of the world's leading course designers-architects: Australia's Greg Norman; England's Nick Faldo; Japan's Isao Aoki; and the US' golf architect Andy Dye.

Engr. Gob added that Eagle Ridge has a residential component, which is being developed by Sta. Lucia Realty. Aside from the three villages, an initial cluster of twenty golf villa units will soon rise within he estate. The golf villas are of a two-level duplex design, containing three bedrooms, three toilets-and-bathrooms, and a living room.

Microtel Inns and Suites (Pilipinas) Inc., the local master franchise holder of the US-based Microtel chain of economy hotels, operates a hotel within Eagle Ridge. It has a three level floor and 60-room budget hotel for businessmen.

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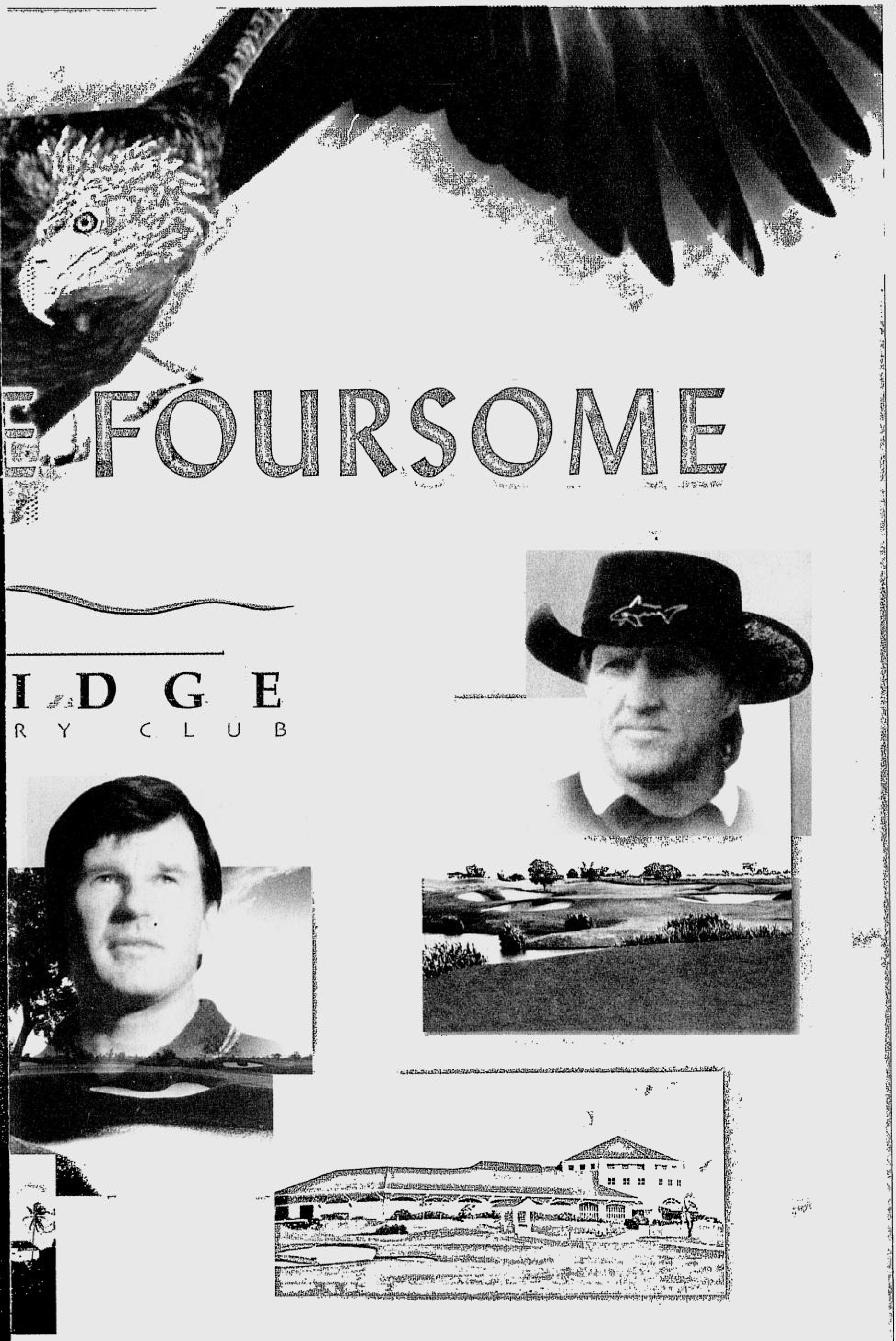

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Hallmark Channel presentations garner 18 Emmy nominations

THE HALLMARK Channel's programs and movies have been honored with 18 nominations at the 2003 Emmy Awards. The awards rites will be held at the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium on Sept. 21.

"Tennessee Williams' The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone" leads the nominees with five citations. "Frank Herbert's Children of Dune" has four, and "Homeless to Howard: The Liz Murray Story" "Soldier's Girl" got two nominations, and "A Painted House," "Gleason," "Monte Walsh" and "Out of the Ashes" copped one citation each.

Some of the nominated movies will be shown on Hallmark soon: "Frank Herbert's Children of Dune," Part 2 on Sept. 24, and Part 3 in October. "Gleason" at 9 p.m. on Oct. 2. "Tennessee Williams' The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone" on Oct. 8. And "Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story" in November.

Hallmark shows: "My Big Fat Greek Life," nominated for Outstanding Choreography for a Multi-Camera Series, and "The Guardian," with Farrah Fawcett nominated as Outstanding Guest Actress in a Series.

Myrza Maldonado at Calesa Bar

Popular Mexican singer Myrza Maldonado performs at 9 tonight in a special show at the Calesa Bar of Hyatt Regency Manila. Accompanying her is Calesa's resident pianist, Rudy Francisco.

Myrza has recorded 10 albums with mariachi bands and traditional Mexican trios. She is visiting the country upon the invitation of the Ambassador of Mexico, H.E. Enrique Hubbard.

Mariachi band

In conjunction with the Hyatt's

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"A Taste of Mexico" food festival at Café Al Fresco, an authentic mariachi band is performing until Sept. 24.

Mariachi Juvenil is a 12-piece band with brass, violins and guitars.

Pilita and Jackielou

Pilita Corrales and her daughter Jackielou Blanco will star in "The Show" at Music Museum tonight. Their special guests are Bobby Soul of the Platters and balladeer Dexter. Call 721-7804.

'Click' goes to Singapore

Channel 7's "Click" teen series recently taped a TV special in Singapore. The two-part special will air at 5 p.m. today and on Sept. 27.

'Hits on Parade'

The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra will premiere new arrangements by Ryan Cayabyab in "Hits on Parade" at 7:30 p.m. today at the new Clamshell II, corner of Gen. Luna and Anda sts., Intramuros.

Sexbomb Girls

The Sexbomb Girls perform at Amoranto Stadium tonight. The show is produced by Focus Entertainment, and directed by Pat Perez and Joy Cancio. Call Focus at 410-3159.

'Negosyante ng Venecia'

Tanghalang Pilipino's production of "Ang Negosyante ng Venecia" (William Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice") started its run last Friday at the CCP's Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino. Direction is by Nonon Padilla.

MALDONADO. Has recorded 10 albums with mariachi bands.

Movies on TV

On HBO: Sept. 20 at 12:30 p.m., "A.I., Artificial Intelligence." 12:10 a.m., "Hearts in Atlantis." Sept. 21 at 7:45 a.m., "Gladiator." 12:30 p.m., "Enemy at the Gates." 11:10 p.m., "Gossip." Sept. 22 at 12:45 p.m., "The Salton Sea." 2:45 a.m., "The Original Kings of Comedy."

Sept. 23 at 8:30 p.m., "Dinner with Friends." 4:15 a.m., "Wit." Sept. 24 at 12:10 a.m., "Vanilla Sky." Sept. 25 at 9 p.m., "Scooby-Doo." Sept. 26 at 9 p.m., "Ocean's Eleven."

On Cinemax: Sept. 20 at 9:45 a.m., "In Country." 6 p.m., "White Water Summer." 7:30 p.m., "Rudy: The Rudy Giuliani Story." Sept. 21 at 6:30 a.m., "Macarthur." Sept. 22 at 6 a.m., "Dead Ringers." Sept. 23 at 7:30 a.m., "Born Yesterday."

Sept. 24 at 2:15 p.m., "To Die For." Sept. 25 at 9 p.m., "The Dead Pool." Sept. 26 at 10:30 a.m., "The Way She Moves."

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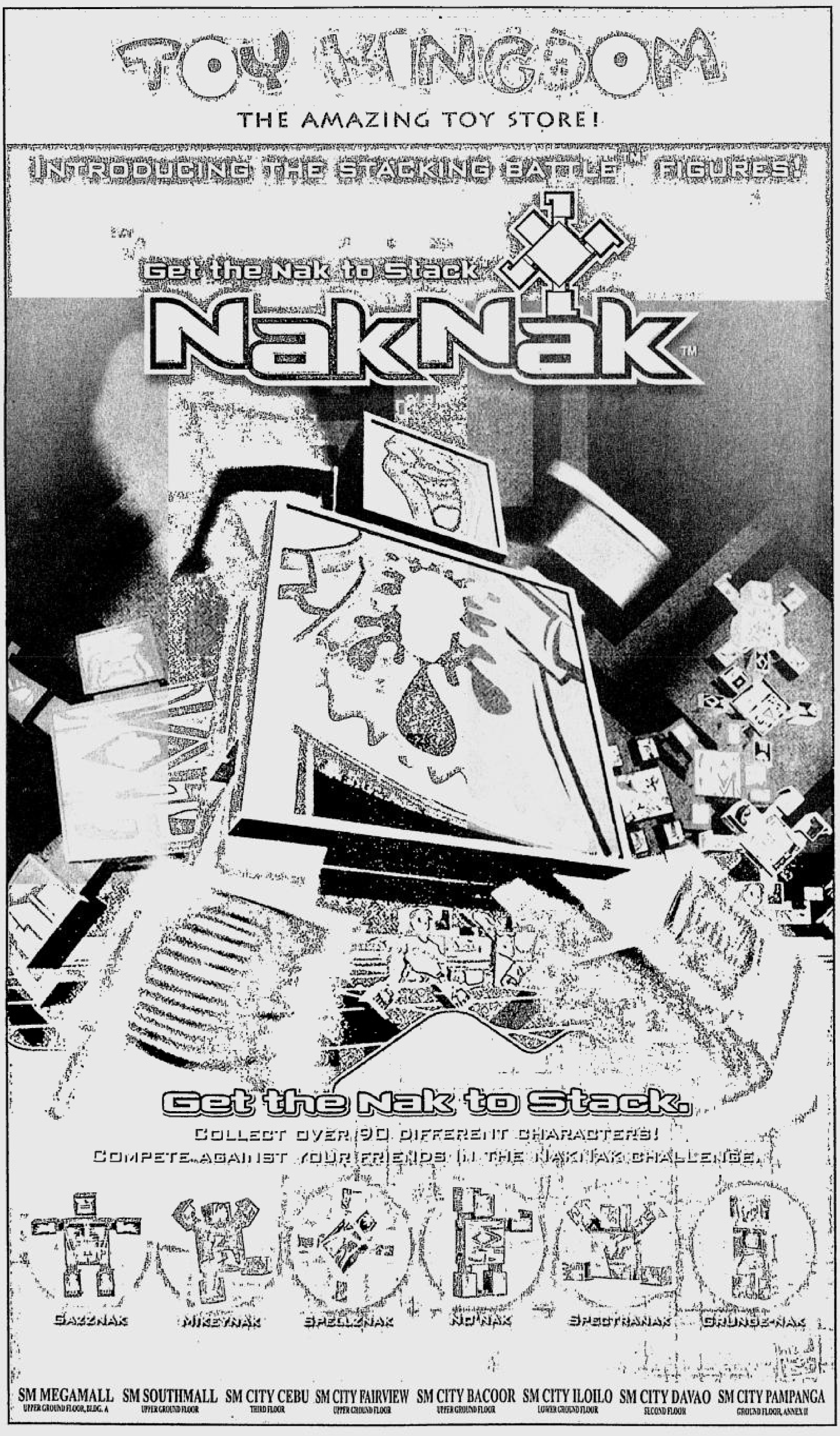
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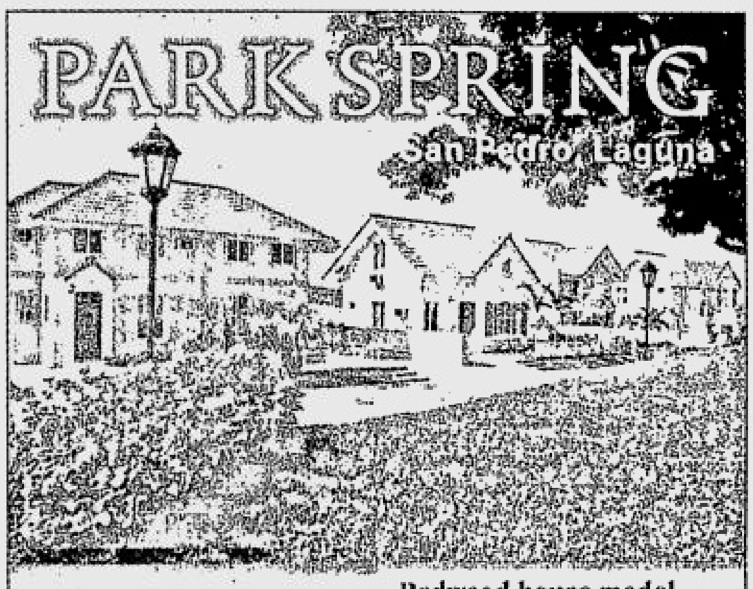

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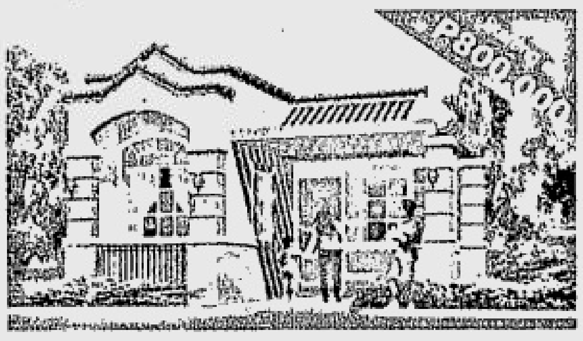

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GO TO PAGE A3

twenty somethings

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Avant guardians
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Sesame Street Smart
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Much more than 24 hours with Michael Bublé
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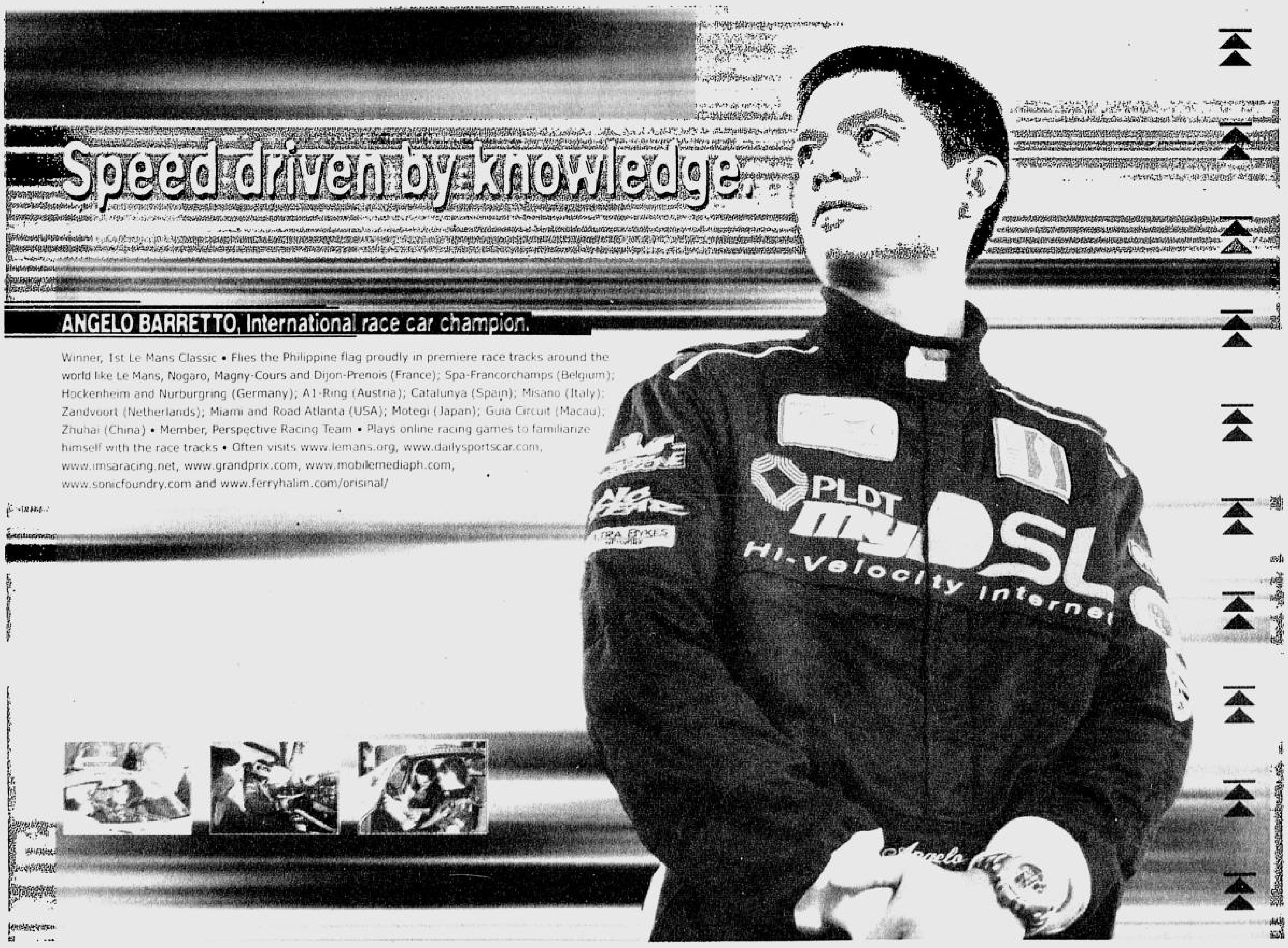

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20 degrees of Super

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

AFTER reading Stephen Chbosky's "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," I realized that coming of age didn't end with one's teen years but instead marched onto one's 20s. Much like Holden Caulfield's storytelling, the stream-of-consciousness journal entries of the lead character Charlie assesses life from outside the dance floor in short, operatic bursts. I became cross-eyed with excitement since Charlie's full frontal honesty is on the beat with my own mini-theory: Inspiration comes from the fringes. My years as a twentysomething Donnie Darko have taught me that life is a series of bridged moments and detached freeze-frames from the left field. It's time to cue in the power ballad because here are some of those moments in 20 degrees:

> My years as a twentysomething Donnie Darko have taught me that life is a series of bridged moments and detached freeze-frames from the left field

1. Radar

The Hilton sisters were on the cover of this magazine two months ago. Are we all doomed? Not yet. A guy called Ken Courtney is twisting their ubiquity through his recklessly brilliant website.

2. www.justanotherrichkid.com

With other omnipresences like Missy Elliot, Colin Farrell and JT Leroy at the butt-end of the joke, Courtney's "Starfucker" shirts are flying off the shelves in Paris and London.

3. Von Dutch

Calgary, Canada is across the pond from Europe, but Purr, my favorite downtown store, stocks other cross-stream labels like Von Dutch. I share an obsession for this LA-based label with Britney Spears and her ex, Justin Timberlake.

THE NEPTUNES
PRESENT...
CLONES

4. Neptunes

The Neptunes hobnobbed with Justin for his debut "Justified," which was a slick move. With the sickest beats out of Virginia Beach, Pharrell, Chad, and their latest, "The Neptunes Present: the Clones," are lording it over both MTV and my player.

5. Punk'd

MTV's lovable monkey Ashton Kutcher sets up hidden-camera pranks and makes superstar pals like Mandy Moore and Frankie Muniz suffer. Another sweet fact about this twisted reality show? We're all watching!

6. American Eagle Outfitters

As my supervisor watched like a hawk, I folded countless Reissue Graphic T's at American Eagle during last year's Christmas rush. A steady stream of stolen merchandise kept all the anger underneath. But the loot didn't change the fact that along with other fresh-faced youth, I was working for chump change in mallrat hell.

7. 'Office Space'

Ron Livingston played a corporate drone in "Office Space." Anyone who's ever worked in a hellish, straitjacket environment has probably felt the urge to demolish pricey office equipment, give his boss the bird, or just stop working. This is a must-see for all underdogs in overdrive.

8. '21 Dog Years'

A perfect bookend to "Office Space" is Mike Daisey's funny commentary on the modern workplace. I've been working for a few months now and with fooling around reduced to a minimum, I sometimes miss being a minor.

9. Getting carded

Minors in North America, however, have controlled access to beer and its amazing, life-enhancing properties. Though hardly NC-17, my roommates and I tried buying a Bubba-a five-liter mini-keg of Molson Canadian-without ID and came home defeated. Being under-26 definitely had its drawbacks.

10. Wild Cherry Pepsi

Second to beer, Wild Cherry Pepsi is awesome and I chugged tons of this stuff while parked in front of the tube.

11. 'My Guide to Becoming a Rock Star'

TV is the tool for efficient time suckage and Much Music's "My Guide to Becoming a Rock Star" is one of my all-time favorite shows. Kids dream about becoming rock stars, not DNA sequencers, so isn't it a clever title?

12. Ash

Behaving in an age-appropriate manner, I'd channel Tim Wheeler and get dressed in the morning to "Wild Surf." I've never seen Ash in concert but I bet they're criminally good.

13. Remy Shand

One concert I did get to watch was Remy Shand's, at our university. Even if it was the start of the fall semester, the kind of fun I had reminded me of summer.

14. Party in the Park

A couple summers ago, I hightailed it to London's Hyde Park to catch Nelly Furtado. I heard "I'm Like a Bird" for the first time on the plane from Quito and liked it. Since then, I have associated it with travelling.

15. Banff

During a lazy Sunday, my friends and I stuffed ourselves into a Sedona and went on a road trip to Banff, which is like Disneyland for nature freaks. Deep powder heli-skiing was the ultimate rush. I never felt so free.

16. On the Road

When your soul feels pummeled with everyday crap, Jack Kerouac's masterpiece reminds you that freedom is where the real healing begins.

PlayStation.2
grand theft auto

17. Grand Theft Auto: Vice City

A flipside to Kerouac's stirring introspection is the impulse to just let your freak flag fly. Road rage has never been so enjoyable.

18. Ludacris

"Move Bitch," is my personal driving anthem. Attitude will *always* be everything.

19. '2 Fast 2 Furious'

Devon Aoki's character Suki expressed the exact sentiment in "2 Fast 2 Furious," which I watched during Day 1 of the seven-day launch of...

20. Super!

Twentysomething Super! hot new chefs

TINA TASTES

by Tina Pamintuan

CHEF Marco Legasto

RUDOLFO Tellez

JEFF de Leon

DEEJAYS are the new rock stars?

Well, chefs are the new superstars.

Finally, recognition to those who work so hard behind the scenes to give us ultimate dining experiences. They give us so much pleasure in so many ways. Now, it's their turn to be in the spotlight.

The first hottie on my list was Jeff Leow, 27, Malaysian/Singaporean. I met him casually one lazy Sunday and I thought he was a model, with that bod! Apparently he has a regular exercise regimen and diet. A chef who diets? I asked. He says there is a difference between tasting and eating. Good point to ponder. I, myself never know when to stop. Jeff is the senior sous chef at the Heritage Hotel Manila. The buffet over there is unbelievable. Imagine, a posh hawkers market or a gourmet food court suited for kings and queens.

ROBERTO Serrano

A sushi station, dimsum and duck station, pasta station, shabu-shabu and stir fry wok station, aside from the roast section where you find suckling pig and Hainanese chicken. Fresh cold seafood, salads appetizers, the regular cooked dishes and desserts. Guess how much? P680++. It's like we're stealing from them. Jeff's favorite thing to eat: hakka yong tahu, stuffed beancurd with minced pork and mixed vegetables and spices that his mom makes at home. Weirdest thing tried: *balut*, "but it was good!".

Tops

The rose among the thorns was Florabele Ko, 29, executive chef and operations manager of Top of the City. Makes the best foie gras burgers, but specializes in Filipino food. This supergirl superchef never took up formal culinary studies. Her secret? She invested in good books and worked in great restaurants, working her way up to where she is now. You go, girl! Favorite thing to eat: Lobsters. Food she would never dare try: Crickets!

Top of the City has one of the most amazing views among public establishments I've been to. The ambience is breathtaking. In fact, I'm planning a party next week there for a friend's birthday.

Over at the very trendy and much talked-about Restaurant 12, my second home, I visited Marco Legasto. At 25, he's one of the youngest, if not the youngest, among the succesful chefs I know. Fresh from Britain, he was asked to be the permanent executive chef at 12. He loves to cook seafood and is a carnivore. Hates ampalaya, but will try almost anything, he says, except a house rat! Marco hopes to cook for Natalie Portman one day.

FLORABELLE Koh. Top "Belle" of the city serves it for you hot

My favorite among his dishes is the tenderloin topped with chicken liver pate spread on the meat, finished off with direct heat through a blue-flame torch. But it's not on the menu; you have to ask for it.

We next walked over to see the three multi-talented and comedic stooges of Kai: Mike Yap, 26; Gilbert Pangilinan, 27; and Rex Soriano, 29-ish. These bosom buddies have been friends for years. They all went to culinary school in New York, and worked for such restaurants as Nobu and Cielo over there. Small wonder Kai has become the biggest Japanese craze in Manila.

I asked them all one question: If you were on death row about to be executed, what would be your last meal?

Marco: 700g steak just grilled, nothing on it.

Mike: A whole lobe of goose liver that would probably kill me.

Gilbert: *Balut*.

Rex: Any pork dish, especially the belly.

Kai is the perfect place for a date. Just sitting there makes you feel beautiful. Order the fried oysters wasabi and kobe beef cooked on individual stones right at your table.

Vida loca

Lastly, I lived it up with some Latinos, particularly two spicy savvy Mexican chefs at the Hyatt Regency in Roxas Boulevard. Roberto Serrano and Rodolfo Tellez, both 29, from Acapulco made a special dish just for me! MOLE. This has to be at the top of my Mexican food list. I felt so special—but even more special when the Mariachi Juvenil serenaded me as I ate my *menudo*. Guys, take note: I'm not talking about Ricky Martin. *Menudo* is a traditional Mexican soup with lots of dry red chilli powder, beef tripes and *garbanzos*. It's what they call their hangover soup.

If you want a "Taste of Mexico" or any of these Mexican men, including F&B manager Abel Nolasco, hurry! They're at the Hyatt only till the 28th of September. Have some fajitas, margaritas, pescados, mariscos and music sung to you. You deserve it 'coz you're Super!

A TASTE of Mexico at the Hyatt

CAPTION

THE THREE Stooges of Kai: Rex Soriano, Gilbert Pangilinan and Mike Yap

Sesame Streetsmart

How this funky children's show shaped my generation's psyche

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

YOU could say that my very first teachers were a quirky bunch.

There was a happy-go-lucky Transylvanian vampire obsessed with numbers; a freakishly gigantic yellow bird who hung out with a shy mammoth named Snuffy; a ghetto-fabulous grouch who lived in a trash can; a gluttonous blue beast who loved Chips Ahoy, and a singing frog who sidelined as a broadcast journalist.

These crazy characters and a host of other kooks pretty much shaped my childhood and molded my overall mental health (or illness, depending on the time of the month), while growing up on this well-known little alleyway called "Sesame Street."

I'm not the only twentysomething who can safely acknowledge "Sesame Street" as one of the greatest pop culture influences in my young life. I need only to sing the first lines of that jazzy mathematical ditty that goes, "One, two, three, four, five ... six, seven, eight nine ten..." to elicit the next line, "Eleven, twelve!" from fellow Sesame Streetsters. In fact, in many late-night drinking sessions or seasonal beach bondings, I've noticed that references to "Sesame Street" would always pop up, intentionally or otherwise, proof of how much the offbeat kiddie TV phenomenon has been ingrained in our collective psyche.

I remember once concurring with a friend that Kermitty Frog was the right spelling of the peppy amphibian's name. We all know, like a secret code, whom to take the Golden An and the Tan Van to: "You take it to Fran!" I've taken part in lengthy discussions on whether Ernie and Bert were really gay live-in partners. (Bert loved pigeons, for God's sake!)

Then there are the classic anecdotes when, once upon a time in the Philippines, they made a local version of the program, shortened to "Sesame," where Cookie Monster was renamed *Biskwit Halimaw* and Ernie's bathtime plaything Rubber Ducky became *Bibing Goma*. I still laugh out loud when I remember Ernie singing in the bathtub, *"Bibing goma, ikaw lamang!"*

And to this day I still wonder whether or not there is truth to that naughty little rumor of *Biskwit Halimaw* exclaiming in the vernacular, when teaching about the capital letter "O": "*Eto ang malaking titik ... O!*"

Of course, now that we're about two decades older and dealing with real-life issues of sex, drugs and income taxes, our logical sensibilities posit some grown-up questions. Like what hallucinogenic substances did the "Sesame Street" scriptwriters imbibe during their brainstorming sessions, considering that the show was born during the American cultural revolution of the hippie '60s? For how else would they have conceived two-headed purple monsters who liked to read, rubber-jawed Martians landing on an apartment and mimicking a telephone ring, a humming typewriter on wheels, or a groovy muppet skatting about circles? Then there was the strange reverence to letters of the alphabet marooned on a deserted island or an unknown planet.

I also think it's pretty amazing how I remember perfectly well, even many years later, the words to the songs that the show's composers arranged. Popular music was an integral aspect of "Sesame Street's" teaching system, ingeniously infused with spoofs of famous tunes like the Beatles' "Let it Be"—executed by a fab foursome of anthropoids (literal beetles) that crooned, "Speaking words of wisdom, Letter B!" To instill in kids the value of breakfast, a muppetized Madonna once sang, "'Coz I am living in a cereal world, and I am a cereal girl."

They didn't stop at the Top Ten charters, either; they also ventured into the opera genre, with the minty-cool character Placido Flamingo spoofing the celebrated tenor Placido Domingo. Many Hollywood celebs like Meryl Streep and Robin Williams have in fact taken a little detour as cameos in this funky little neighborhood.

Hip li'l 'hood

More than just the wonders of reading and counting, I now believe that "Sesame Street" imparted a set of positive values to my generation. It advocated racial camaraderie with an ethnically diverse cast of Caucasians, African-Americans and Hispanics who hung out together, not to mention the fact that puppets and people lived harmoniously in that hip lil' 'hood.

Social equality was likewise promoted, albeit subtly--the middle to upper class humans and muppets got along famously with the slum-dwelling Oscar the Grouch. Compassion and fellowship for people with physical handicaps was conveyed with the character Linda, a deaf-mute who communicated in sign language. And of course, there were the good ol' classics of loyalty (Big Bird and Mr. Snuffleupagus, Ernie and Bert) and respect for elders like Mr. Hooper.

But just as I'm grateful for the conveyance of these golden values, I'll admit that my generation's short attention span could be traced back to the show's frenetic, MTV-like sequences. And if you think about it, the seeds of a consumerist mentality were planted way back then, with every show being sponsored by two letters of the alphabet and a number. (Just think, those letters and numbers actually had a media-spending budget!)

'Avenue Q'

My fascination for "Sesame Street" has sparked my curiosity about an off-Broadway musical currently reaping rave reviews, "Avenue Q," described as a "Sesame Street" for twentysomethings. It shares some similarities to "Rent," as it is set within cramped apartments in the mean streets of New York City, it mixes puppets, real people and animation to deal with twentysomething issues of unemployment, restlessness and economic disparities. The song titles give a glimpse of my age group's concerns: "The Internet is For Porn," "There is Life Outside Your Apartment" and "I Wish I Could Go Back to College."

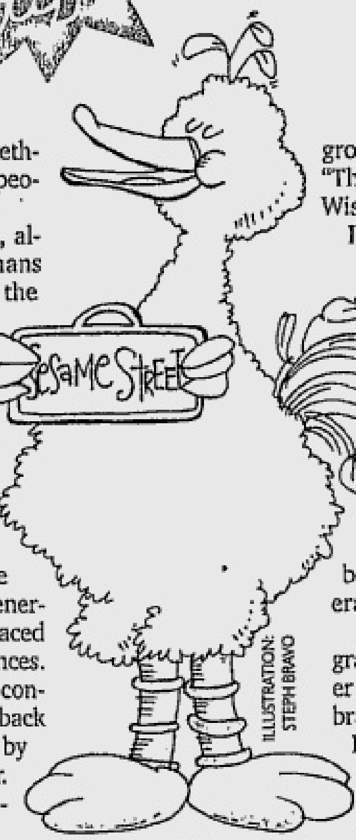

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

I think it's kinda sad that "Sesame Street" doesn't hold the same attraction for the kids of today, at least based on my informal survey of children aged four to 10. Maybe because there's just way too many cartoons and kiddie shows to choose from now, a lot of which extol violence, meanness, or sheer idiocy. Even some educational shows I catch on Nickelodeon don't measure up, maybe because, well, the characters just aren't as cool. There I believe form the first cracks in the next generation gap.

Perhaps my sadness is rooted in my eternal gratitude and nostalgia for the coolest street ever paved on earth. Even Dino Ignacio, the brains behind the notorious website "Bert is Evil" (which garnered thumbs-ups at the Webbys and more than a passing mention in the Western media's 9/11 terrorist trail due to Bert's alleged links to Bin Laden), killed the *fractalcow* site, explaining: "I fear that it may destroy the character's credibility with children. I cannot allow that to happen. I, myself grew up on 'Sesame Street' and it was an important part of my childhood."

I can completely relate. For if anyone today still asks me how to get to "Sesame Street," I'd say that it's not located in any physical space on the map; it's found in the hearts and minds of my generation.

(Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)

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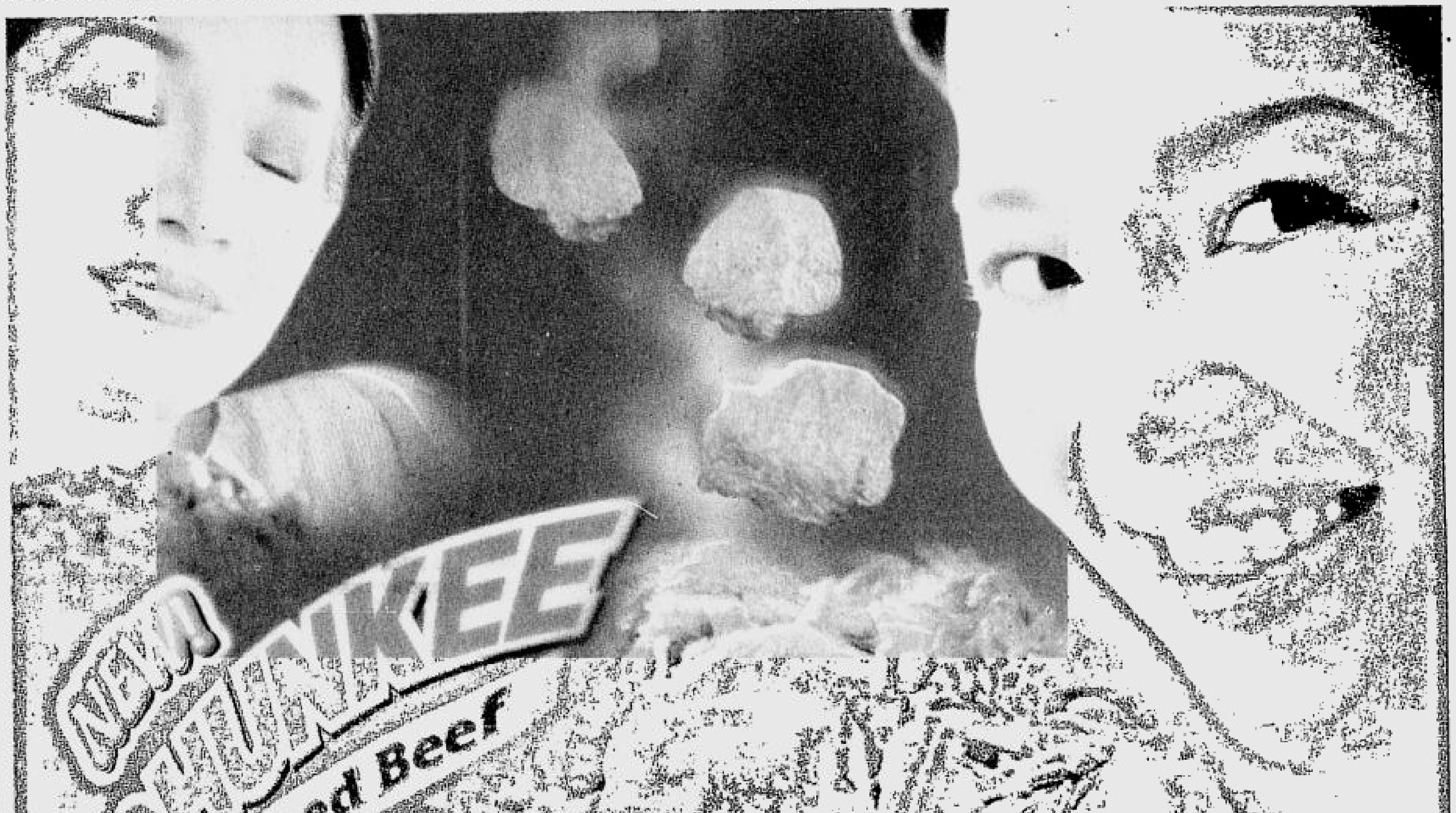
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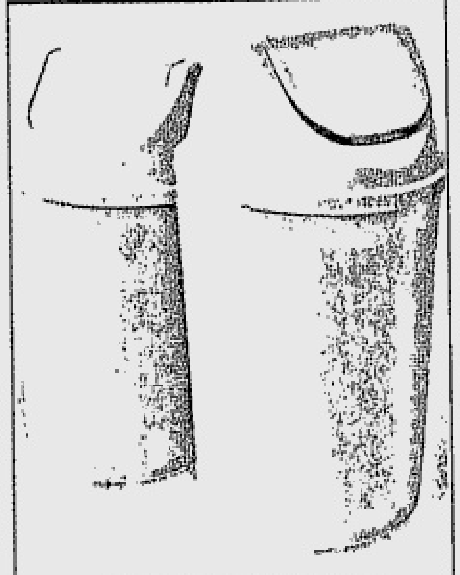

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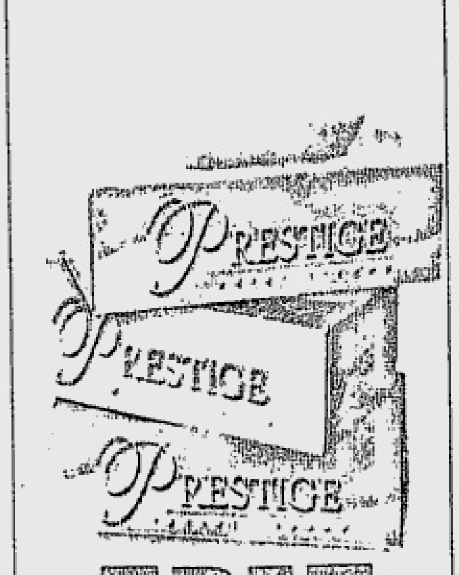
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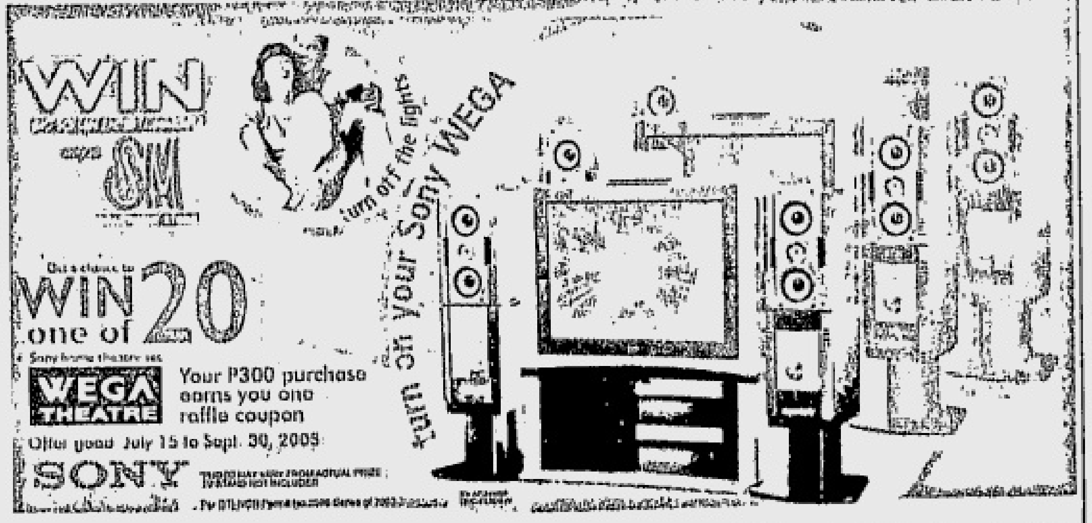
PLUS! SPECTACULAR PRIZES


WIN
SM
turn off the lights
turn on your Sony WEGA
Get a chance to
WIN one of 20
Sony home theater sets
WEGA THEATRE
Your P300 purchase earns you one raffle coupon
Offer good July 15 to Sept. 30, 2003
SONY

SATURDAY be Super

Much more than 24 HOURS with Michael Bublé

IT'S SHOWTIME AT THE MERALCO! "I may be one of the greatest performers in the world . . . you have to see my show to believe it."

STORY ON PAGE G4

I WILL SEE YOU THERE!

gift gate and fujifilm HAPPY, HAPPY TIME!

HAPPENING ONLY TODAY

SM Megamall Bldg.B Atrium 10AM - 9PM

SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS

WHY SMILE? PHOTO SHOW
See the best in Filipino creativity.

SWATCH WRISTORY
[illegible] new models for the last 2 days! This is your last chance to buy at 1983 prices.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Vote for your favorite photo and get a FREE Yakisoba and Red Iced Tea from Tokyo Tokyo.

SUPER SWATCH RAFFLE
Wear your Swatch watch and register to join the raffle. Win cellphones, Swatch watches and more!

SWATCH MAGAZINE COVERS
For a P300 minimum purchase, get your picture on the cover of the top magazines in the Philippines.

TREAT OF THE HOUR
For a P300 minimum purchase, register from 1pm and join the contest. [illegible] worth thousands.

MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION WISH GRANT
Join the party for our Wish Kids whose wishes will come true today. Hello Kitty will be there!

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AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA + Greenbelt

Ayala Center presents HAPPY TIME!
GLORIETTA TODAY AND TOMORROW
10AM-8PM

For a minimum P300 purchase... choose from the following 10 treats!

FUJIFILM STUDIO
Featuring the best in photography.

F4 GALLERY
Check out the different F4 photos at the F4 Gallery brought to you by Sony Music and Sony Philippines.

BENETTON FASHION SHOOT
Be a supermodel in your own Benetton Fashion Shoot.

95 DAYS TO A RUSS CHRISTMAS
Get ready for Christmas and have your photo taken at the Russ Christmas Booth!

SWATCH MAGAZINE COVERS

4 BEAUTY NOOKS
Nail Art! Henna Tattoo! Face Painting! Hair Styling!

SANRIO FAIRY TALES
Be a prince! Be a princess! Get your photo taken with Hello Kitty in different fairy tale settings.

★ **WHY SMILE? PHOTO SHOW**

★ **PEOPLE'S CHOICE:**
The vote is yours and so is this FREE Yakisoba and Red Iced Tea from Tokyo Tokyo.

★ **HAPPY TIME SALE!**

★ **SWATCH WRISTORY**

★ **LEGO PLAY CENTER**

END WITH A BANG!
on Sunday, Sept. 21 from 12-6PM

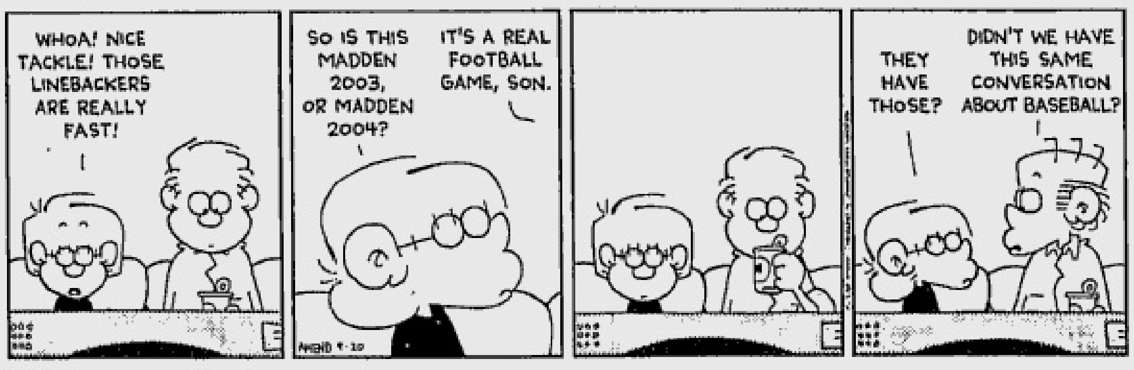
FUJIFILM
Celebrity photographers starts with Wig Tysman from 12nn-1pm

TREAT OF THE HOUR

MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION
Grand Celebrity Make-A-Wish Party 4-6PM

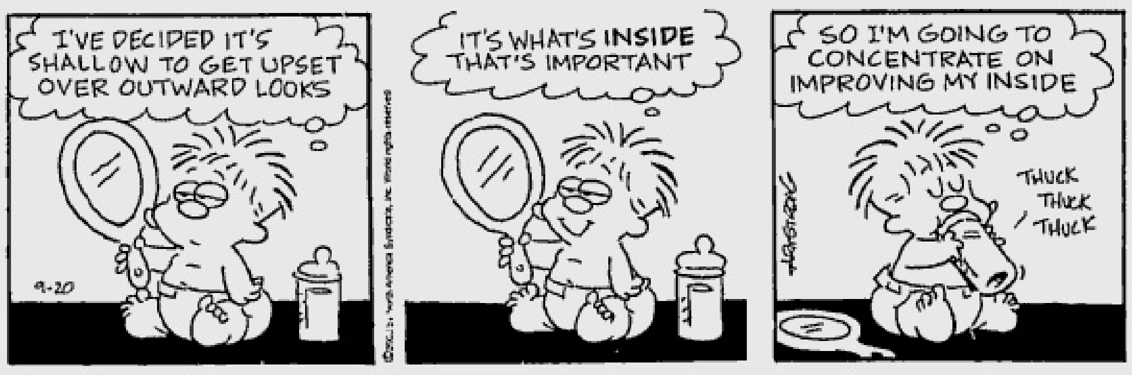
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHOA! NICE TACKLE! THOSE LINEBACKERS ARE REALLY FAST!
SO IS THIS MADDEN 2003, OR MADDEN 2004?
IT'S A REAL FOOTBALL GAME, SON.
THEY HAVE THOSE?
DIDN'T WE HAVE THIS SAME CONVERSATION ABOUT BASEBALL?
AMEND 9-20

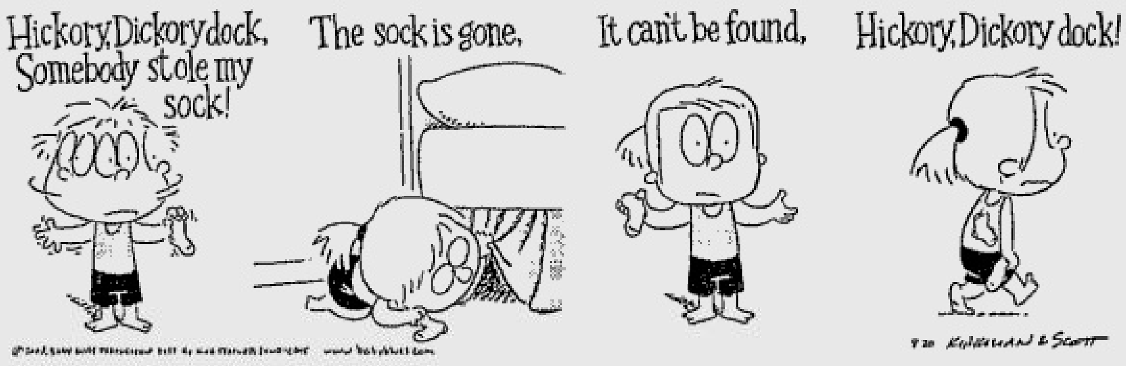
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'VE DECIDED IT'S SHALLOW TO GET UPSET OVER OUTWARD LOOKS
9-20
IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT'S IMPORTANT
SO I'M GOING TO CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING MY INSIDE
THUCK THUCK THUCK
ARMSTRONG

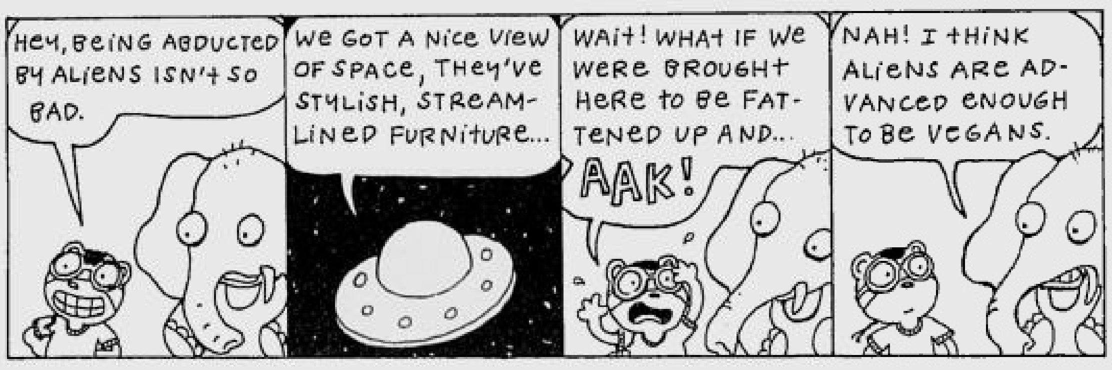
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


Hickory, Dickory dock, Somebody stole my sock!
The sock is gone,
It can't be found,
Hickory, Dickory dock!
www.babyblues.com
9-20 KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, BEING ABDUCTED BY ALIENS ISN'T SO BAD.
WE GOT A NICE VIEW OF SPACE, THEY'VE STYLISH, STREAMLINED FURNITURE...
WAIT! WHAT IF WE WERE BROUGHT HERE TO BE FATTENED UP AND...
AAK!
NAH! I THINK ALIENS ARE ADVANCED ENOUGH TO BE VEGANS.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're observant, shrewd and, above all, a survivor. Home and family matter to you. You will work tirelessly to restore things to the level of order that you want. You're confident. Others know they can depend on you. You often make excellent investments. Expect to have more solitude in the year ahead in order to learn something important.
Birthdate of: Gary Cole, actor; Sophia Loren, actress; Upton Sinclair, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Good news! Today Mercury turns direct. What does this mean? It means that the silly errors and delays that have plagued you at work are over. (Whew!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Go ahead with more confidence making plans about vacations entertaining diversions. The difficulties you encountered doing this before are no longer in the picture.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Mercury rules you. Today it goes direct after being retrograde for the past month. This definitely makes your life easier from here on. Enjoy!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's been difficult communicating with others lately. You can relax now. Transportation delays and irritating situations with phones and computers are now things of the past.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): From here on, it is an excellent time to buy cars, trucks and all kinds of ground transportation. Your ability to make the right choice is far improved now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Like Gemini, you are ruled by Mercury. Three times a year it goes retrograde, causing havoc in your life. As of today, it's over. Yay!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Now it's time to get down to business and finish important things. You can also feel free to begin new and exciting adventures. Let your ambition guide you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Travel plans and dealing with foreign countries look much more favorable now. Friends who held you back before are no longer in the picture. (Thank goodness.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your ability to impress important people with your ideas is very strong now. Don't look back. Go forward with experimental projects. Others are watching you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Travel plans that have been delayed or canceled can now be rescheduled in a new way. Everything to do with travel, publishing and higher education flows much more easily now.

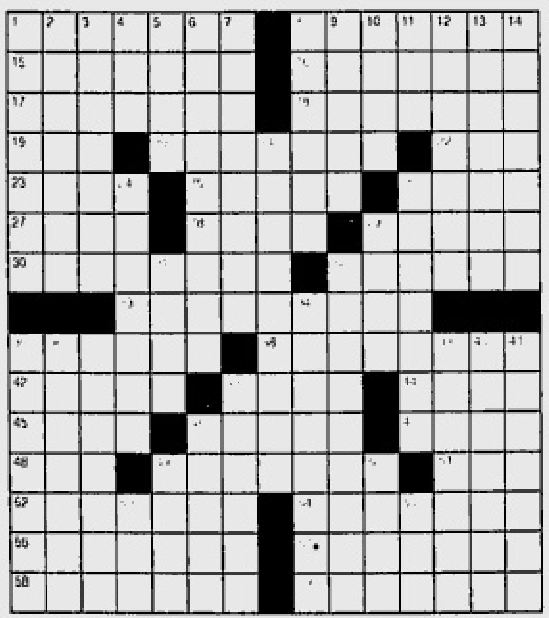
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Obstacles to clinching deals about shared property and joint possessions are now removed. New purchases excite you. You are more in control of your destiny now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Dealing with ex-partners has not been easy. It's true: Living well is the best revenge. However, you don't have to worry about this anymore. Feel free to act how you want and relate to others more openly.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Sold tickets illegally
8 Clap
15 Female lead
16 City in France or New Jersey
17 Revenues
18 Unsurpassed
19 To the __ degree
20 Magazine piece
22 Track circuit
23 Crisscross framework
25 Computer invader
26 __ en scene
27 Wash
28 Black cuckoos
29 Quantities of hair
30 Raises up
32 Having the least faults
33 Polar covers
35 Presbyterian parsonages
38 Cutters
42 Astrological ram
43 Fr. religious figs.
44 Lipinski jump
45 Bereft of sensation
46 Last of Socrates?
47 Wise person
48 Gear tooth
49 Serving aboard
51 Part of MD
52 Shaded walkway of the Southwest
54 Putting in a warehouse
56 Marching band member
57 Defeat decisively
58 Ushers
59 Greenstreet and Pollack

DOWN
1 Roofing piece
2 Principal
3 Memory repository
4 Brit's toilet
5 High-grade cotton
6 Tires
7 Preordains
8 Chinese calculator
9 Coffin covers
10 Old-time journalist Ernie
11 Straw drawn
12 Benzene derivative
13 Removes a disguise
14 Most profound
21 Belfast repast
24 Contrived
26 Mason and Norman
29 Humble residences
31 Opening day pitchers
32 Rustic class
34 Mournful writers
35 Wildly impulsive persons
36 Spaces between leaf veins
37 Falls for a honeymoon
39 Scrutinize
40 1811-to-1820 period
41 Winter vehicles
43 Vilifies
46 Restaurant request
49 Surrender formally
50 Well-behaved
53 Wrestlers' cushion
55 Manage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By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

9/20/03

Friday's Puzzle Solved

T	H	A	W	■	M	A	M	B	A	■	V	E	N	T
O	O	N	A	■	U	V	E	A	S	■	O	M	O	O
T	W	I	S	T	S	I	N	T	H	E	W	I	N	D
A	I	M	■	O	H	S	■	H	O	V	E	R	E	D
L	E	A	P	F	R	O	G	■	R	I	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	U	F	O	■	R	E	E	L	■	B	A	Y
B	E	N	D	S	O	V	E	R	■	S	I	E	V	E
O	L	E	G	■	M	I	N	I	S	■	R	A	I	N
S	L	A	Y	S	■	B	A	C	K	W	A	R	D	S
C	A	T	■	C	U	E	D	■	I	O	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	A	N	■	A	L	L	R	I	G	H	T
S	O	A	N	D	S	O	■	E	L	K	■	H	O	W
T	U	R	N	S	U	P	O	N	E	S	N	O	S	E
A	C	N	E	■	R	E	L	I	T	■	E	P	E	E
T	H	O	R	■	E	D	E	N	S	■	W	E	S	T

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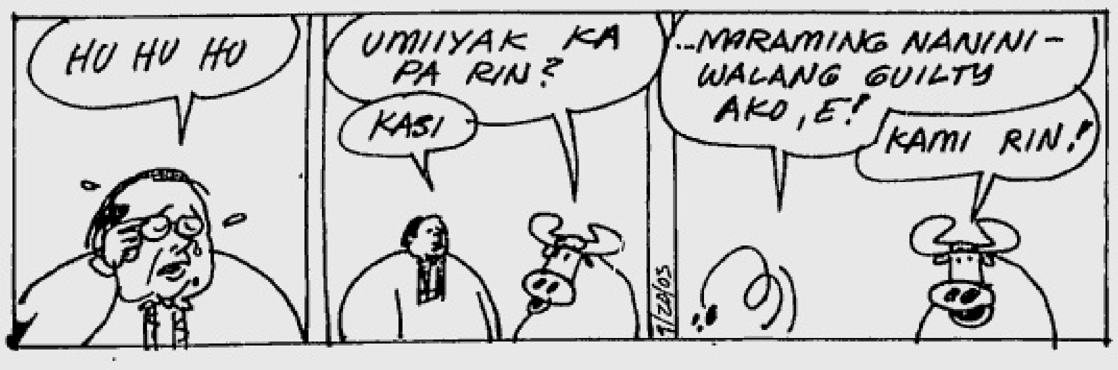
9/20/03

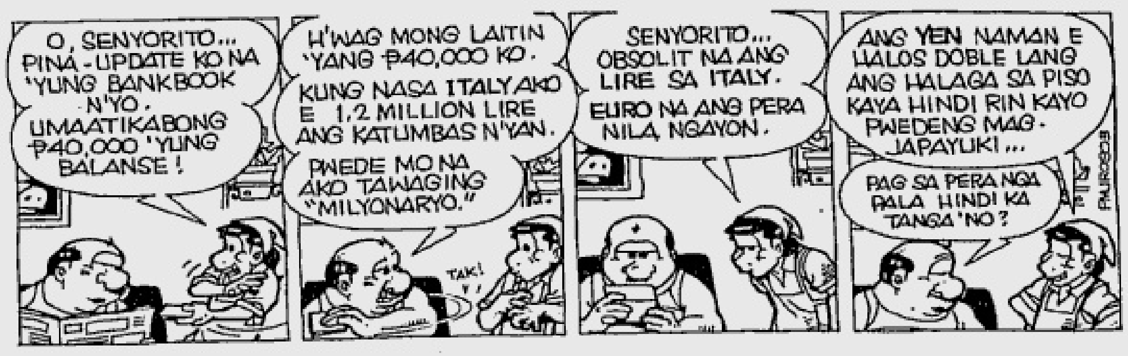
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HU HU HU
UMIIYAK KA PA RIN?
KASI
..MARAMING NANINI- WALANG GUILTY AKO, E!
KAMI RIN!

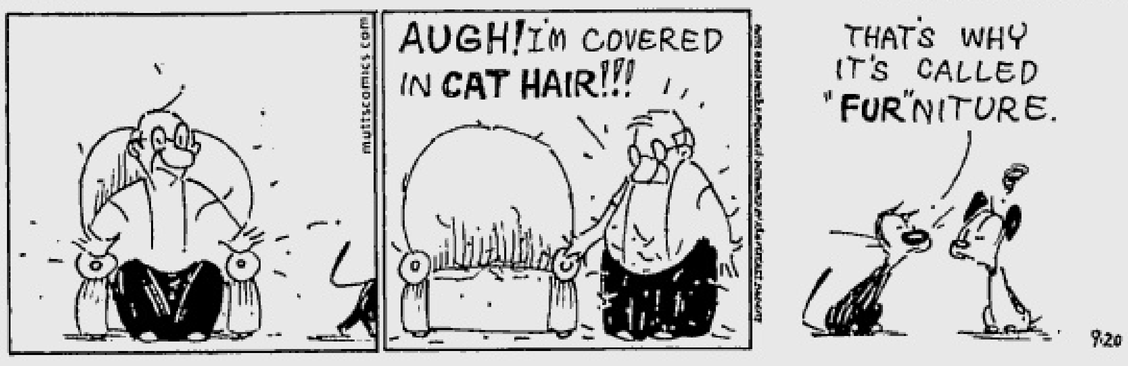
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O, SENYORITO... PINA-UPDATE KO NA 'YUNG BANKBOOK N'YO.
UMAATIKABONG ₱40,000 'YUNG BALANSE!
H'WAG MONG LAITIN 'YANG ₱40,000 KO.
KUNG NASA ITALY AKO E 1.2 MILLION LIRE ANG KATUMBAS N'YAN.
PWEDE MO NA AKO TAWAGING "MILYONARYO."
TAK!
SENYORITO... OBSOLIT NA ANG LIRE SA ITALY.
EURO NA ANG PERA NILA NGAYON.
ANG YEN NAMAN E HALOS DOBLE LANG ANG HALAGA SA PISO KAYA HINDI RIN KAYO PWEDENG MAG-JAPAYUKI...
PAG SA PERA NGA PALA HINDI KA TANGA 'NO?

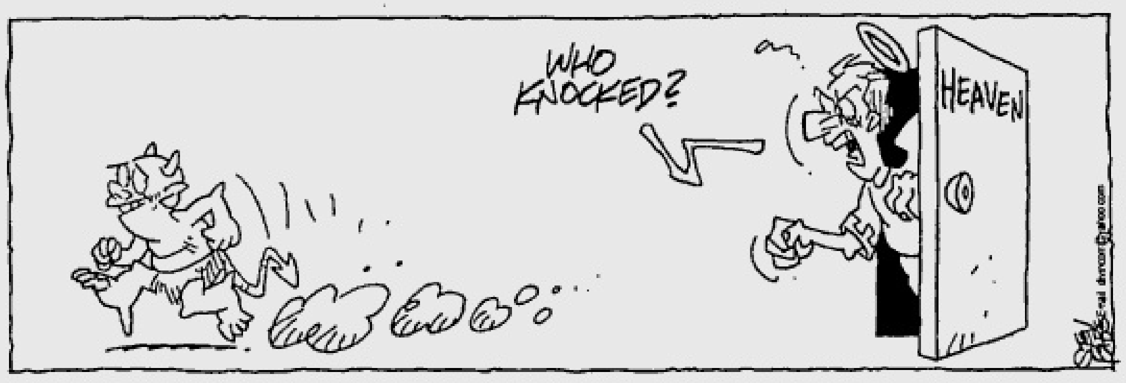
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


muttscomics.com
AUGH! I'M COVERED IN CAT HAIR!!!
THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED "FUR"NITURE.
9.20

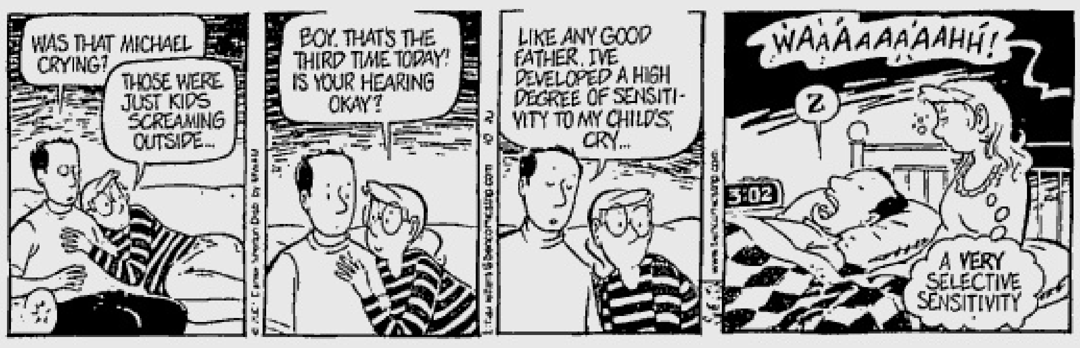
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WHO KNOCKED?
HEAVEN

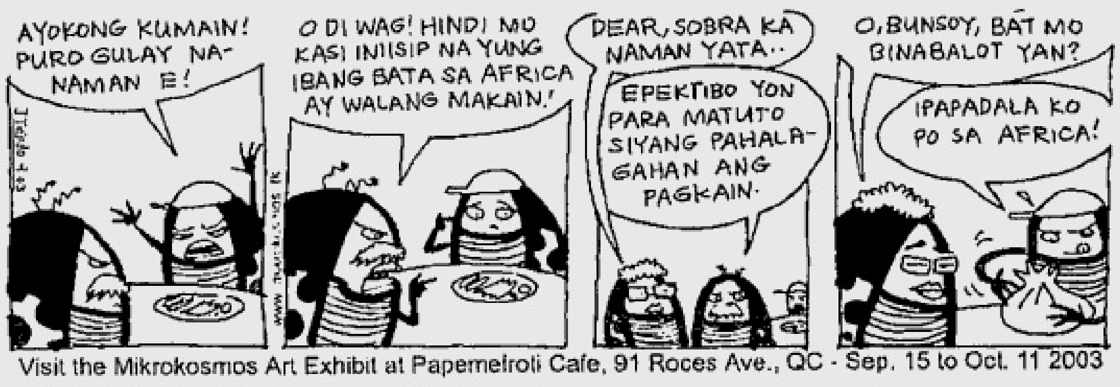
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAS THAT MICHAEL CRYING?
THOSE WERE JUST KIDS SCREAMING OUTSIDE...
BOY, THAT'S THE THIRD TIME TODAY! IS YOUR HEARING OKAY?
LIKE ANY GOOD FATHER, I'VE DEVELOPED A HIGH DEGREE OF SENSITIVITY TO MY CHILD'S CRY...
WAAAAAAAHH!
Z
3:02
A VERY SELECTIVE SENSITIVITY

MIKROKOSMOS

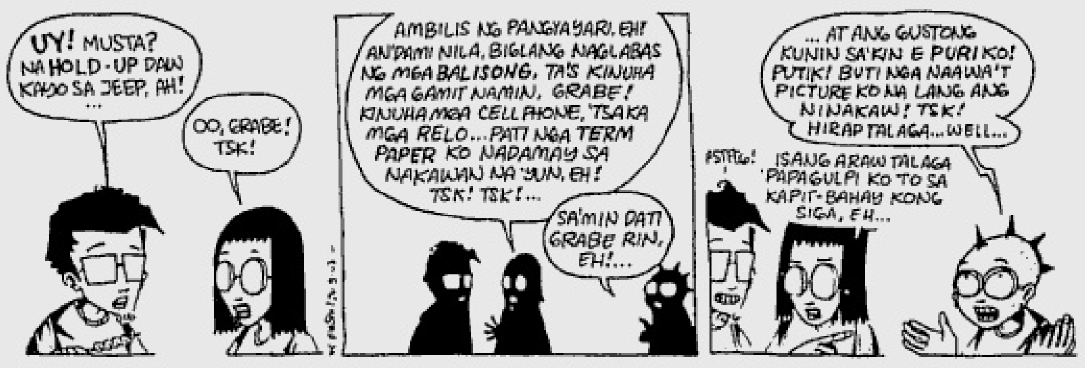
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


AYOKONG KUMAIN! PURO GULAY NA-NAMAN E!
O DI WAG! HINDI MO KASI INIISIP NA YUNG IBANG BATA SA AFRICA AY WALANG MAKAIN!
DEAR, SOBRA KA NAMAN YATA..
EPEKTIBO YON PARA MATUTO SIYANG PAHALAGAHAN ANG PAGKAIN.
O, BUNSOY, BAT MO BINABALOT YAN?
IPAPADALA KO PO SA AFRICA!

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Sep. 15 to Oct. 11 2003

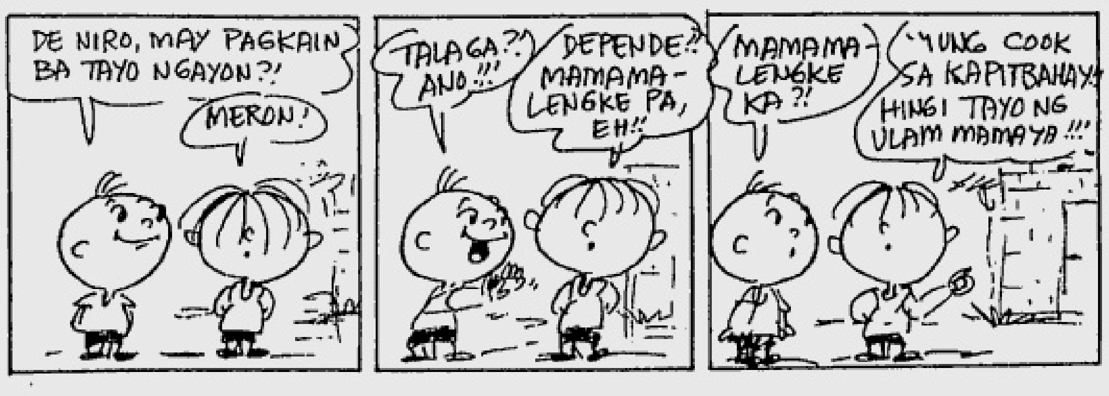
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


UY! MUSTA? NA HOLD-UP DAW KAYO SA JEEP, AH!
OO, GRABE! TSK!
AMBILIS NG PANGYAYARI, EH! AN'DAMI NILA, BIGLANG NAGLABAS NG MGA BALISONG, TA'S KINUHA MGA GAMIT NAMIN, GRABE! KINUHA MGA CELLPHONE, 'TSAKA MGA RELO... PATI NGA TERM PAPER KO NADAMAY SA NAKAWAN NA 'YUN, EH! TSK! TSK!...
SA'MIN DATI GRABE RIN, EH!...
... AT ANG GUSTONG KUNIN SA'KIN E PURI KO! PUTIK! BUTI NGA NAAWA'T PICTURE KO NA LANG ANG NINAKAW! TSK! HIRAP TALAGA... WELL...
#STFG!
ISANG ARAW TALAGA PAPAGULPI KO TO SA KAPIT-BAHAY KONG SIGA, EH...

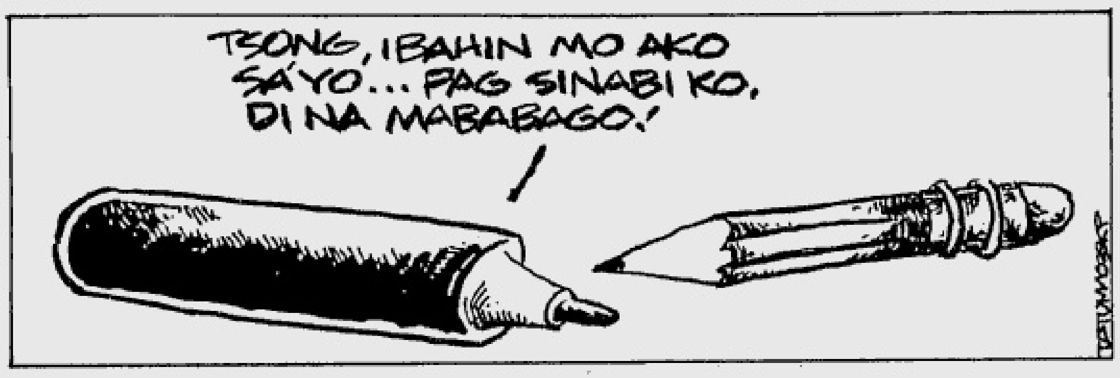
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, MAY PAGKAIN BA TAYO NGAYON?!
MERON!
TALAGA?! ANO!!!
DEPENDE?! MAMAMALENGKE PA, EH!!
MAMAMALENGKE KA?!
'YUNG COOK SA KAPITBAHAY! HINGI TAYO NG ULAM MAMAYA!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TSONG, IBAHIN MO AKO SA'YO... PAG SINABI KO, DI NA MABABAGO!

Take your pick—Jolina or Dennis da Silva. Has anything changed since the Dark Ages?

Sexist in the City

SWAK!

by Lex

ONCE upon a time, in a show biz world far, far away, Annabelle Rama during a television interview, said: "If this guy ends up marrying my daughter, I'm gonna pull out all his pubic hair!"

She was referring to Dennis da Silva, Ruffa's ex-love team mate from their "That's Entertainment" days. In the realm of show biz has-beens, he embodies the bottom of the barrel. After his career plummeted, he got into drugs, and ended up becoming a pusher. He is now accused of raping the 14-year-old daughter of his live-in partner. He claims it was consensual sex.

In contrast, Jolina Magdangal is every mother's dream. Not content with just counting her hard-earned money, she has reinvested in several thriving businesses. Because she believes that to whom much is given, much is expected, Jolina constantly pushes herself to improve, both as a celebrity and as a businesswoman.

Now, if Dennis and Jolina were both candidates applying for the last spot in the Entrepreneurial Management Program at the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) (formerly Center for Research and Communication, or CRC), Dennis would win hands down. UA&P does not allow women to enroll in the course.

Run by the ultra-conservative Opus Dei, the school's press release on the matter is that women are naturally entrepreneurial. In other words, they could learn nothing from this particular degree. I think this posh learning institution is pushing this back-handed compliment to mask their real agenda: the oppression of the female race.

Has anything changed since the Dark Ages?

Miracle of womanhood

If the people at UA&P are to be believed, every single Filipina woman is miraculously endowed with the skills needed to start and run a successful business. Never mind that putting up a venture requires the complex process of designing a product, identifying the market, creating/enhancing demand, ordering materials, devising efficient supply chains, balancing accounting books, and finally selling the damn thing.

Since we are on the subject of stereotyping I have several other gross generalizations that the UA&P management might consider basing policies on: Chinese people should not be allowed to take up any business course. Gay people should not be allowed to take up Fine Arts since they are already creative. Overweight people should be banned from culinary institutes. I could go on and on, but unfortunately, my space is limited.

Unity, not uniformity

I was lucky enough to study in Stanford University, whose motto was, "Unity in diversity." They assembled the most varied group of people possible in a class, so that students could learn as much from one another as from their teachers.

By accepting only men in its Entrepreneurial Management Program, UA&P is doing the exact opposite. At the very least, male students are deprived of the intellectual stimulation that comes from a female perspective.

If UA&P's example is to be believed, our world hasn't progressed much in the last few hundred years. The school website says women aren't welcome because "neuropsychological studies have proven that females have a significantly faster rate of left-brain and right-brain synapses than males."

My layman's translation: "Women don't need to study entrepreneurship because their main goal in life should be getting married and raising children."

I'm no educator but I've always felt that the years spent in school should be a time when young people learn to open their minds. Instead, UA&P is promoting segregation and stereotyping.

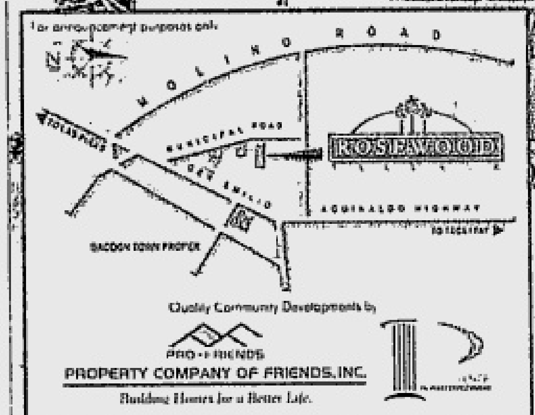
But hey, what do I know?! What could the likes of Jolina contribute anyhow? Besides, Dennis' experience in drug dealing could definitely become a case study on running a high-risk entrepreneurial venture.

(For comments e-mail: swak@info.com.ph)

Close to work! Close to the goodies! Close to fun! Close to the family!

ROSEWOOD
VILLAGE
A Celebration of Family Living

It is the best of times. It is the season of Light. It is the spring of hope.
You have everything before you. Rosewood Village brings your family closer together.
The elegant entrance gate with 24-hour security opens to wide, tree-lined roads. A children's playground and landscaped parks are kept fresh by ample water supply. Enjoy the covered basketball court and swimming pool with waterfalls, the air-conditioned clubhouse and the air-conditioned Roman Catholic church.
Celebrate the joys of family living at Rosewood Village.



Quality Community Developments by
PRO-FRIENDS
PROPERTY COMPANY OF FRIENDS, INC.
Building Homes for a Better Life.
Tel. (632) 535-7142 • (632) 535-7172

Close to the city! Rosewood Village, along Niog Road in Bacoor, Cavite, is 1km. away from Aguinaldo Highway, about 15 minutes (10kms.) from Roxas Boulevard via Coastal Road and 2 kms. away from SM Bacoor.

Property Company of Friends, Inc. Ground Floor Mahogany [illegible] on Rafael S[illegible]
Mandaluyong City, MM Philippines
E-mail: marketing@profriends.com www.profriends.com

AGENTS AND BROKERS ARE WELCOME!

DISCLAIMER: The photographs and plans do not necessarily represent [illegible]
The developer reserves the right to make further improvements and changes where appro[illegible]

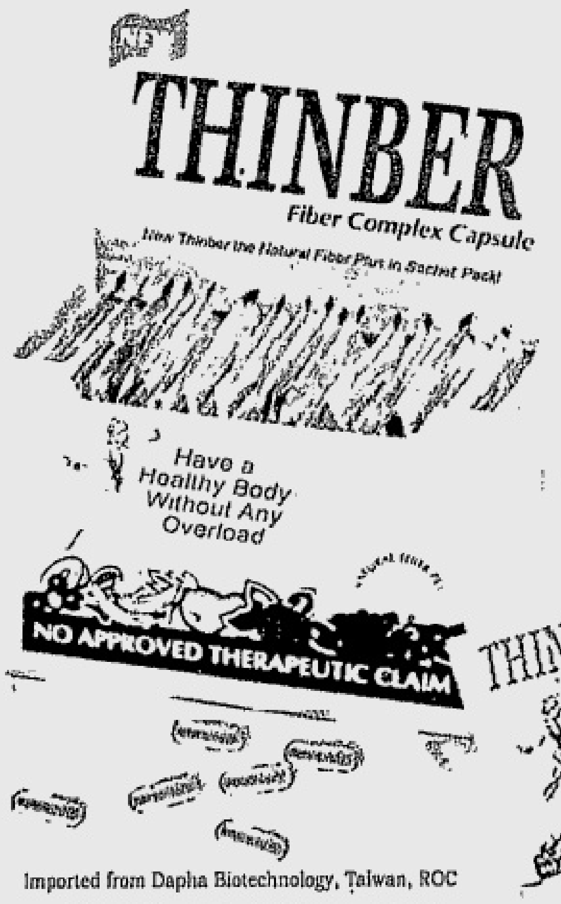
Thin is in. The natural way.
Introducing
THINBER
Fiber Complex Capsule

It's best never to compromise your health when losing unwanted pounds so choose the all-natural, safe and effective way– THINBER dietary fiber plus.

THINBER enhances your body metabolism and regulates your bowel movement through its all natural, herbal formulation. It is safe to use everyday and its very effective in keeping your calorie-intake lower than it used to be.

THINBER has been proven safe and effective for weight maintenance and reduction by Filipino teenagers and middle-aged professionals which even includes doctors. A number of senior citizens also use it to help regularize their bowel movement. It's safe and effective for everyone who wants to keep fit and healthy.

Try THINBER and experience losing weight the natural, healthy way.


THINBER
Fiber Complex Capsule
New Thinber the Natural Fiber Plus in Sachet Pack!
Have a Healthy Body Without Any Overload
NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIM

THINBER'S ALL-NATURAL INGREDIENTS:
Clover Powder, Oat & Fruit Fiber, Chromium Yeast, Apple Vinegar Powder, Glucomanossan & Gelatin

THINBER
THINBER

Imported from Dapha Biotechnology, Taiwan, ROC
By NEW SMART FORMULAE TRADING CORP.

Available at
mercury drug
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO
watsons
and other leading drug store outlets.

BFAD NO. FR - 40491

MGC
Promo Duration: April 26 to December 12, 2003
Bigas Panalo Biyahe Papremyo!

GET THE CHANCE TO WIN
A TRIP TO TOKYO DISNEYLAND
PLUS P500,000 POCKET MONEY
OR OTHER ASIAN VACATION PACKAGES!

It's so easy to join!
- Every purchase of 1 sack of MGC Rice from any grain wholesaler/retailer gets customer one (1) raffle coupon. Just simply fill up the coupon with your name, address, telephone number, and signature. Dealer's name and complete address must likewise be supplied.
- Drop the entries in drop boxes located at MGC rice dealers or mail to BIGAS PANALO, BIYAHE PAPREMYO c/o BC Concepts 2/F Don William Bldg., Javier cor Santillan Sts., Makati City
- All employees of RMJR Grains Center, its advertising agency its merchants dealers and the security and manpower agencies including relatives up to second degree of sanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promo

Minor Raffle Draw/s
- A total of two (2) winners and their dealers will win in each minor raffle draws
- The minor raffle draws will be held under the supervision of a DTI rep. at RMJR Grains Promo Office, 2/F Don William Bldg Javier cor Santillan Sts., Makati City on the following dates

DRAW DATE	TIME
May 30, 2003	2:00PM to 3:00PM
July 25, 2003	2:00PM to 3:00PM
September 26, 2003	2:00PM to 3:00PM
November 28, 2003	2:00PM to 3:00PM

- Winners can only win once per draw. If a name is drawn more than once he/she gets the prize of higher value. However a person can win more than once during the whole duration of the promo
- Non-winning entries per draw are not qualified to join the succeeding draws but will be qualified to join the grand raffle draw.

Grand Draw
- A total of one hundred twenty seven (127) winners and their dealers will win in the grand draw
- The grand draw will be held under the supervision of a DTI rep. on December 20, 2003 at RMJR Grains Promo Office, 2/F Don William Bldg., Javier cor Santillan Sts., Makati City
- The deadline for submission of entries for the grand draw will be at 7:00 PM of December 12, 2003
- Winners can win only once on the grand draw. Names drawn more than once will automatically win the prize with the higher value.

Prizes
- For the minor raffle draws, the following vacation packages will be given away

Minor Raffle Draw – May 30, 2003 One (1) Cebu & One (1) Puerto Galera	P5,000 for dealers
Minor Raffle Draw – July 25, 2003 One (1) Bohol & One (1) Banaue	P5,000 for dealers
Minor Raffle Draw – September 26, 2003 One (1) Boracay & One (1) Ilocos Norte	P5,000 for dealers
Minor Raffle Draw – November 28, 2003 One (1) Palawan & One (1) Davao	P5,000 for dealers

- For the grand draw, the following vacation packages will be given away

Major Prizes

	Dealer
Grand Prize Winner Trip to Tokyo Disneyland w/ P500,000 Pocket Money OR P500,000 in Cash	P100,000 cash
1st Prize Winner Trip to Thailand w/ P50,000 Pocket Money OR P50,000 in Cash	P25,000 cash

Minor Prizes

	Winner	Dealer
Mandarin Travel Bag	25	25
Mandarin Luggage	25	25
BF 800 Cannon Camera	25	25
9QT Coleman Cooler	25	25
MGC Sports Jacket	25	25

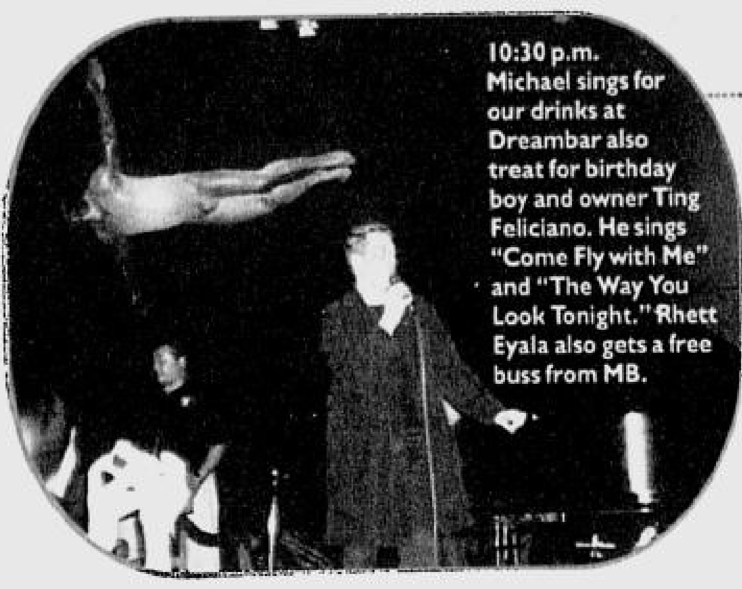
- All prizes are tax free.
- All trips are valid for use up to six (6) months from date of issue.
- Winners will shoulder and facilitate all documents necessary for international travel
- All winners will shoulder travel tax and insurance as well as transportation travel expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes
- Major prizes in the grand raffle draw are convertible to cash but not transferable
- All minor raffle prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
- All raffle prizes are non-replaceable with other items

Claiming of Raffle Prizes
- All raffle draw winners may claim their prizes at RMJR Grains Promo Office, BC Concepts, Inc., 2/F Don William Bldg., Javier cor Santillan Sts Makati City
- Winners should bring two (2) valid ID's (passport, driver's license, SSS) letter of notice and raffle stub
- Prizes that are unclaimed after 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of RMJR Grains Center with prior approval of DTI NCR.
- The equivalent prize for the dealer of an entry drawn without its name and address will be likewise forfeited in favor of RMJR Grains Center

See posters for complete details

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1476, Series of 2003

9 p.m. Dinner at Gerry's Grill with the whole group Bublé's boy band together with NBC/Joey@92.3 (that's me) and Warner Music. MB with Carlo Ocampo and Juni Licaros



10:30 p.m. Michael sings for our drinks at Dreambar also treat for birthday boy and owner Ting Feliciano. He sings "Come Fly with Me" and "The Way You Look Tonight." Rhett Eyala also gets a free buss from MB.

10:20 a.m. Photo shoot at the Rooftop of the Shang.

10:40 a.m. Clowning around with Rico (MB's Bodyguard) after the shoot.

1:30 p.m. Presscon at Conway's Bar Marge of Joey@92.3 is the host...MB is a riot and weaves his magic spell on the press.

7 p.m. Frances Lim of Silk Cocoon visits Michael at his hotel room and measures him up for his first barong ever! He sings, "That's All" from his cover album a cappella as payment for his free shirts.

5:30 p.m. Sept. 10, 2003, Wednesday. My first meeting and chat with Michael Bublé at the Makati Shangri-La (the only hotel to stay in when visiting the country).

Much more than 24 HOURS with Michael Bublé

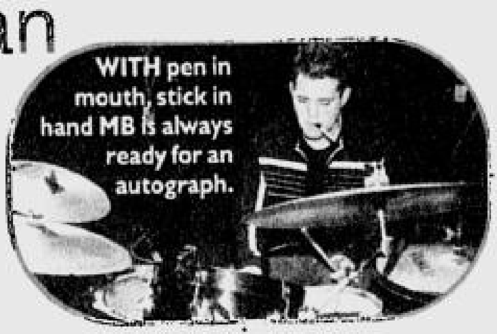
By Ria Romero

WHAT an amazing experience it is to be with a man like Bublé—ultimate showman, artist, performer and charmer. It's like being in the eye of a great hurricane.

A true perfectionist, he scrutinizes his performances more than anyone will ever suspect. When you hear him sing, you understand the need for this perfection. Michael Bublé's voice is richly smooth and tantalizing, and he himself looks quite fine. Thus girls *oohh* and *aahh*, and the whole world takes note of his brand-new takes on oldies-but-goodies.

There is surely no stopping this hard-working Canadian, who's only 26. Same time next year, the man will be a star.

Here's what it's like to be with him 24 hours!



WITH pen in mouth, stick in hand MB is always ready for an autograph.

MAKE some noise Bill Wasake!

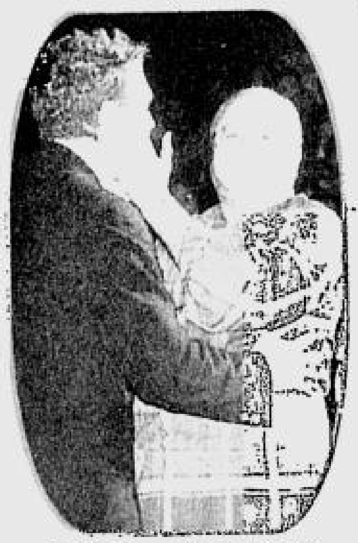
5 p.m. Sept. 13, 2003, Saturday. It's almost Showtime! MB does a sound check at the Meralco with his cutie-all-boy band . . . watch out Justin n N'Sync!

8 p.m. Cocktails at the Executive Dining Area of Meralco. It's time to meet and greet the biggies; yours truly does all the intros. With PLDT's Manny Pangilinan and Eric Alberto.

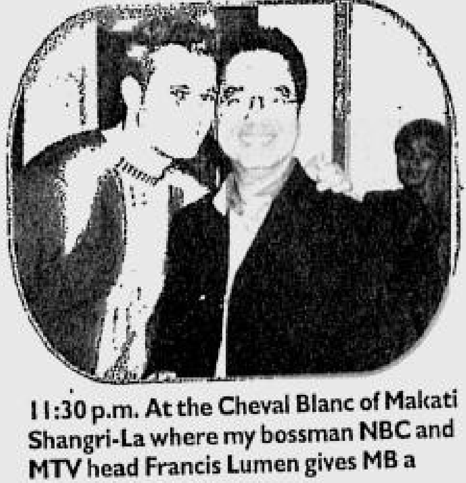
MB'S big fans . . . my folks Cong. Mike and Munch Romero, Sonny Grey and my brother Mikko and his wife Christine Romero.

THE PINOY audience gives him a standing ovation. Whattta guy.

11 p.m. My job's almost done as PR for Joey@92.3, I give MB my gushy congratulations!



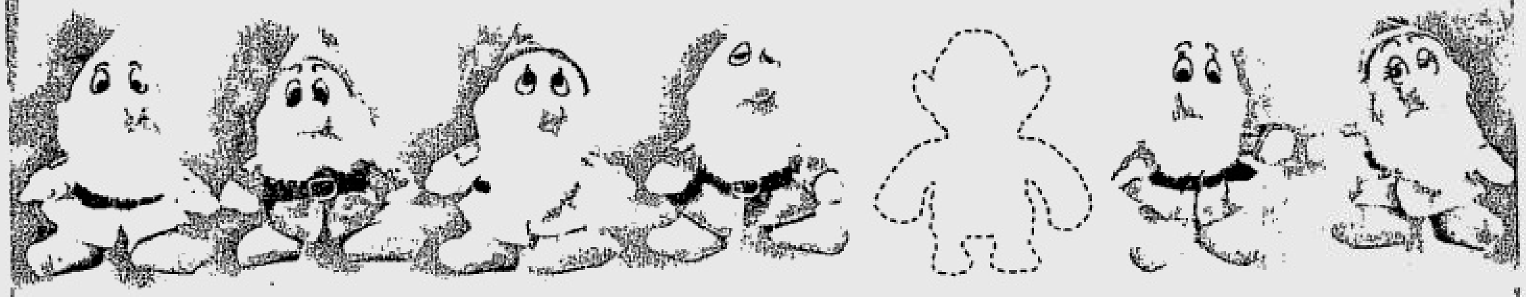
A KISS from Fritz Infante!



11:30 p.m. At the Cheval Blanc of Makati Shangri-La where my bossman NBC and MTV head Francis Lumen gives MB a private after gala party.

BABYBrian Green and I, he's only 20!

THE GIRLS just can't get enough of pianist and resident hottie Alan Chang.



Don't let a fever spoil any part of childhood.
Say bye-bye to fever with...
ByeBye-Fever.

ByeBye-FEVER

Instant relief for your child's fever discomfort

When your child has fever pain, an alternative to medication to bring down his temperature is ByeBye-Fever, a ready-to-use cool patch from the makers of Salonpas. ByeBye-Fever works instantly to absorb and dissipate heat from childhood fever, delivering immediate comfort to your child. Soothing your child's fever pain makes his sleep more restful, so he is able to recover from his fever more easily and with less discomfort.

Pain relief lasts up to 10 hours

The cooling sensation of ByeBye-Fever can be felt as soon as the cold patch is applied. Effective cooling relief lasts up to ten hours. ByeBye-Fever can also be used to assist in the treatment of headache, toothache, and muscle heat.

Convenient, comfortable, and safe to use

ByeBye-Fever is easy to apply-you can even teach your child how to do it. Simply peel off the transparent film and apply the adhesive surface to the affected area. Its strong adhesive properties also make it more comfortable than an ice bag or towel, since your child can move around more freely as he rests. ByeBye-Fever has no side effects, and is safe to use with other medications.

Another quality product from the makers of Salonpas
Hisamitsu.

Hisamitsu.
For Instant Cooling Sensation Soothes Fever Discomfort
ByeBye-FEVER
STRONG ADHESIVE POWER!!
Gentle to the skin
Safe To Use With Medications

SATURDAYS

avant guardians

Individual photos by Paolo Piñeda and Erica Fife

Tim Yap

We have always been dedicated to the celebration of a new generation. Enter the present crop of scenesters who are raising the bar in their respective diverse industries.

In a field where anything and everything becomes a spectator sport, these young movers lead the pack with a distinct attitude and personality born out of loving what they do and having the courage to pursue their passions.

At the art hub that is the Alliance Francaise lobby, a mix of artists, rock stars, photographers, directors and designers provided a steady stream of positive spirit—none of the stereotypical angst-filled persona—it was a journey into the young adventurer's soul.

This "one word" collaboration poem, co-written on the spot during the shoot by your columnist and poet Jourdan Sebastian (as part of his Una poetry series) best sums up the mood of the moment. I threw out one word and he threw out the next, and so on:

Great Unexpected

"Wow, I am amazed by the situation that presents itself now.

Wow, I am surprised that people can do so much of the unexpected.

Touch the hand that feels creation.

Today, I jump out of my heart and dive towards knowing the deepest, greatest recesses of my wonderful existence."

Welcome the Super! generation.

QUARK HENARES

Age: 22

What I do:
Write and direct films.

What I am wearing:
A Baywatch orgy shirt.

Most humbling moment:
Meeting Ang Lee

Celebrity I resemble most:
LA Lopez or Vicky Belo (he-he).

Best (or worst) lie I ever told:
"Sure! I'll put a sex scene in Keka!"

Sources of inspiration:
Playstation 2, Oh Tokyo!, Mahal and Mura.

Current project:
"Finals," a teenybopper flick, and a Rivermaya music video.

Twenty years from now, I'll be:
Hopefully still making movies.

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Funny, Amazing & Queer
FAQ is stranger than fiction.

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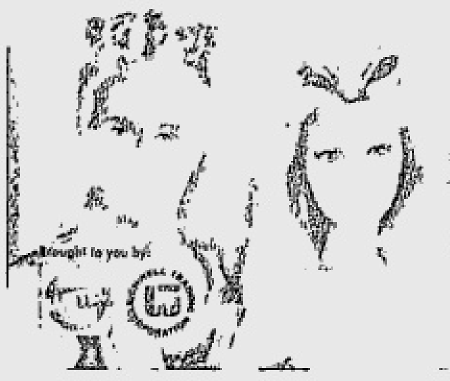
FASHION GUIDE
Sept 1 - Nov 15, 2003

How To Get Rewarded With BARBIE FASHION

...being fashionable has its rewards!

get a chance to win any of these exciting prizes!!!

Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1937 Series of 2003



Brought to you by:

[illegible]

MARC ABAYA

Age: 23

What I do: Musician

What I am wearing: Torn up shirt, elephant jeans, chucks and a cross around my neck (a ring on the left too.. hehe)

Most humbling moment:

Every performance. Being in Japan with my mother for two months

Celebrity I resemble most:

Marilou Diaz Abaya

Best (or worst) lie I ever told:

I've never lied!

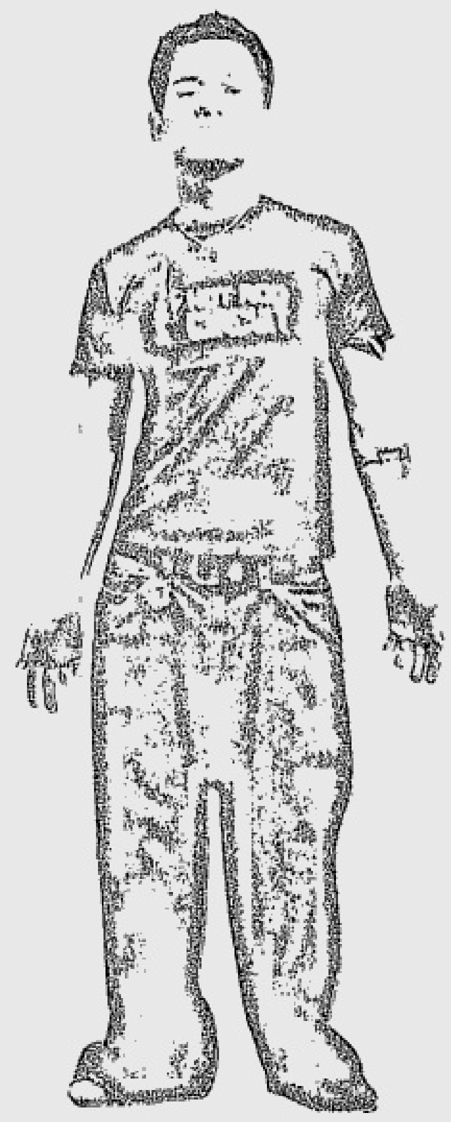
Sources of inspiration:

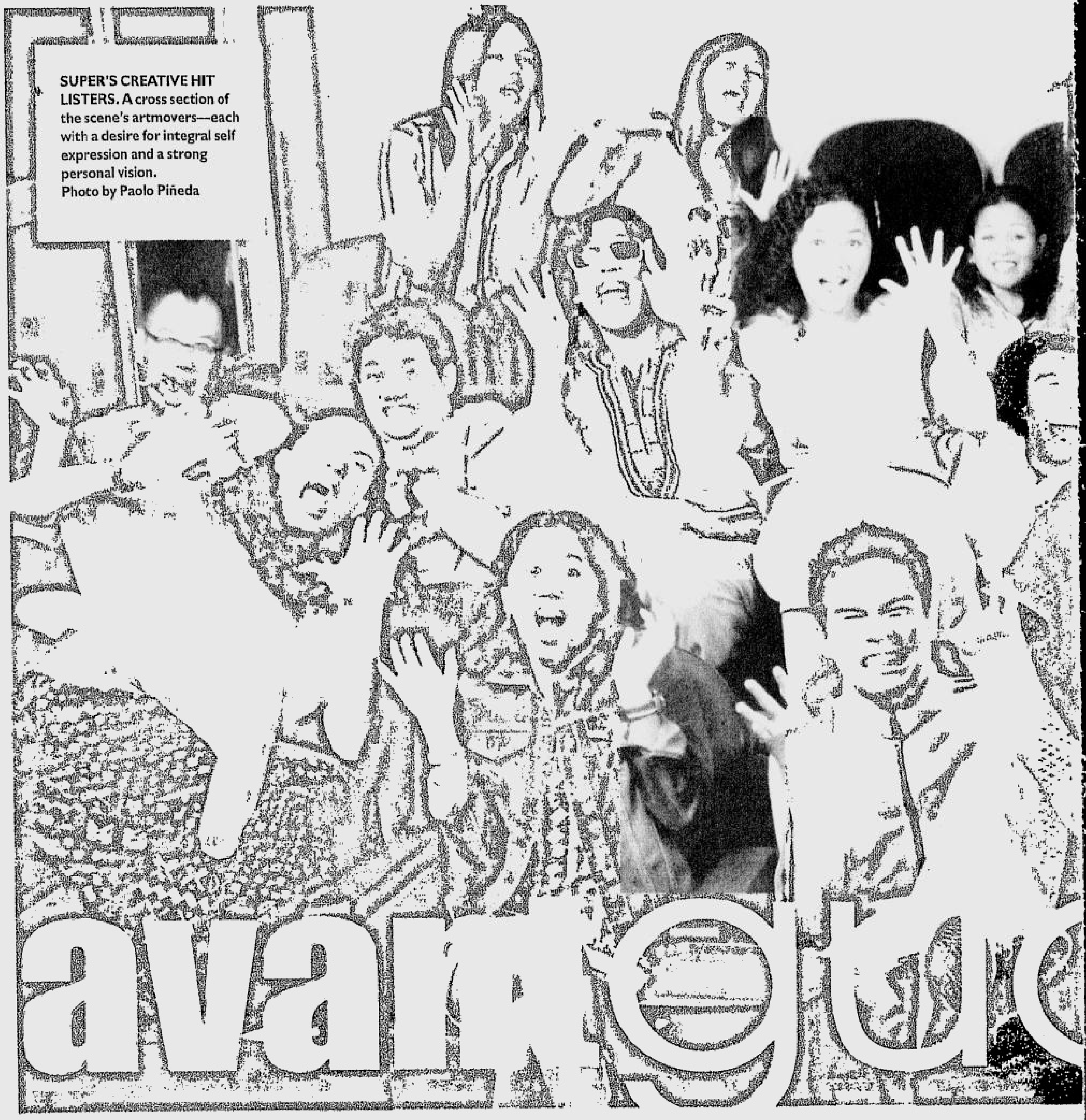
Life

Current project:

Releasing <s>andwich's third album (indie style)

Twenty years from now, I'll be: dead even before that





SUPER'S CREATIVE HIT LISTERS. A cross section of the scene's artmovers—each with a desire for integral self expression and a strong personal vision.
Photo by Paolo Piñeda

KATE TORRALBA

Age: 24

What I do:

I design clothes. I sing. I write. I try to stay in school (Ateneo Graduate School of Business). I play the piano (among other things).

What I am wearing:

My favorite "denim roadkill" jeans and my Undecided top which you can wear in many, many ways—even as a skirt!

Most humbling moment:

After a good busy day at work, I played a Quezon City gig with only the waiters and the bar tender as the audience.

Celebrity I resemble most:

Jessica Zaragoza meets Hello Kitty (Devon Aoki, daw according to a cross-eyed friend).

Best (or worst) lie I ever told:

"I'm near *na*!"

Sources of inspiration:

People I love (including whoever is my crush *du jour*), vivid images, intricately done works of art, color, color, color!

Current project:

KT for Kitty line for Gift Gate, attempting to finish my MBA, a pretty clothing line for a special little store opening soon!

Twenty years from now, I'll be:

A devoted mom to five or six little hippie rascals who will be part of a family musical act a la "Sound of Music."

LYLE SACRIS

Age: 28

What I do: Director/bassist

What I am wearing: shirt, shorts, spiky slippers, glasses, nose ring, twistee for goatee, tongue ring

Most humbling moment: my first mainstream movie Akala Mo

Celebrity I resemble most: Mr. T or the Tokyo Shock boys

Best (or worst) lie I ever told:

I've never lied.

Sources of inspiration:

Everyday stuff

Current project:

My second film just came out, 1st Time under Viva.

Twenty years from now, I'll be: 48

KARA TOLENTINO

Age: 29

What I do:

Partner in FXB Design—a graphic design company. We help people promote themselves through design.

What I am wearing: A striped tube I've owned for years, Epstein jeans from Australia.

Most humbling moment: Losing one ovary made me realize that sickness chooses no one—so what if you're twentysomething?

Celebrity I resemble most: I've been called "Rufamae" too many times!

Best (or worst) lie I ever told:

"They're real!"

Sources of inspiration:

My son Joaquin—kids just have the most amazing honesty. They remind you of what's really important.

Current project: Right now, we are re-imaging a cosmetics store in Glorietta. You'll see the results next month!

Twenty years from now, I'll be: 49 and a funky lola!

STEVE TIRONA

Age: 20 sum sum

What I do:

I see dead people

What I am wearing:

Supreme.

Celebrity I resemble most:

One of the students in "Saved By the Bell"

Best (or worst) lie I ever told:

I never lie.

Sources of inspiration:

Friends.

Current project:

Waking up.

Twenty years from now, I'll be:

40 sum sum

MICH DULCE

Age: 22

What I do:

Designer, sometime stylist, full-time Jolina fan and *artista* stalker.

What I am wearing:

Louis Claparols jacket, Vivienne Westwood shirt, a pink draped skirt I made, purple tights, custom made platform shoes and Louis Vuitton Murakami bag.

Most humbling moment:

Being the only person who hasn't met Jolina or even seen her in person.

Celebrity I resemble most:

Jolina Magdangal? Ok fine, Sto. Niño. Gah.

Sources of inspiration:

The color pink, peeling paint, curtains, trash.

Current project:

My Label Ho t-shirt line with Cecile Zamora, styling for John Lloyd and Bea Alonzo movie under Star Cinema, and my not so secret Jolina doll project coming soon.

Twenty years from now, I'll:

Still be *kulot*, making clothes and married with two kids

PAOLO PINEDA

Age: 23

What I do: Photographer and wannabe cinematographer. "I draw light and paint shadows."

What I am: Some say it's artwork that used to be my cash.

Celebrity I resemble most: Sante D'Orazio

Best (or worst) lie I ever told: I don't love her anymore.

Sources of inspiration:

My lifestyle, my environment and of course, beautiful women!

Current project: Advertising, magazine editorials and to study in New York

Twenty years from now, I'll be: shooting for Oggi in Japan, Vogue editorials, Pirelli Calendar or doing an art film about insomnia

DONA TUMACDER

Age: 27

What I do: Create ideal moments out of every moment! I dance! I make non-dairy cakes, distribute Bel'Air aromatherapy products, give stress and lifestyle management workshops with Green Light Works, act in an interactive play "Kidlat"! All these so I can dance some more.

Most humbling moment:

Not getting promoted during my short-lived corporate stint. That is one of the best moments too because it created the opportunity to pursue my true passions!

Celebrity I resemble most:

Gloria Romero (Naks!) when she was in her 20s.

Current project:

Giving birth to DIWA or Dance for Integrated Wellness and Arts. DIWA has 2 flagship projects—Sayaw Galaw and Sining Healing.

IA RIVERA

Age: 26

What I do:

I'm a painter and I teach art. My mission is to get more peo-le involved in the arts. Art is or everyone. You don't need n art degree to be able to ap-reciate art and express your-elf.

What I am wearing:

My favorite top from Tan an.

Most humbling moment:

When people tell me how ny art affects them. When I ee my students smile after we omplete a project.

Sources of inspiration:

Everything around me. My tudents make me realize how eing real and un-edited can iberate your true self.

Current project:

A new series of paintings for ny next exhibit and my stu-ents' first exhibit.

Twenty years from now, I'll e: A happy and fulfilled other and wife. I'll also be a ell-exhibited artist. I see my-elf branching out to different elds of art like design and ashion.

GIAN ROMANO

Age: Early 20s

What I do:

Make clothes.

What I am wearing:

Shirt and pants I made, shoes by Marc Jacobs.

Most humbling moment:

Everytime someone compliments my work.

Celebrity I resemble most:

Jonna Jet

Best (or worst) lie I ever told:

Everything is a lie.

Sources of inspiration:

Music, people.

Current project:

Getting even with some people.

Twenty years from now, I'll be:

Doing the same thing but bigger and old.

KRISTINA GORRA DANCEL

Age: 27

What I do: Play guitar, sing for my bands Fatal Posporos and Cambio

What I am wearing: Fabulous pieces designed by Kate Torralba and Benjie Estanislao

Most humbling moment: Many. Sometimes I take the stage for the money and not necessarily the art and that makes me feel miniscule. Nevertheless, the rent must be paid.

Celebrity I resemble most: Jaya.

Best (or worst) lie I ever told:

I love you.

Sources of inspiration:

God and light, demons and shadows, Kaio and Vin, the news, books, dreams

Current project: Brainstorming on how to put up my own music store, Fatal Posporos Album, Cambio E.P. and incorporating Guilty Pleasure Records

Twenty years from now, I'll be: a super fortysomething selling instruments

XENG ZULUETA

Age: It's all in the mind

What I do: Resident Make-up Artist—Shu Uemura Philippines

What I am wearing: Adidas overalls

Most humbling moment:

Meeting Mr. Shu Uemura

Celebrity I resemble most:

Dawn Zulueta

Best (or worst) lie I ever told:

"Mom, I swear those aren't my pack of cigarettes!" (Xeng at 15)

Sources of inspiration:

Fashion and photography

Current project:

Myself

Twenty years from now, I'll be:

Famous and beautifying the famous

AIA DE LEON

Age: Twentysomething

What I do:

I'm a musician, poet, jingle-maker, guitar player, songwriter for Imago and Fatal Posporos.

What I am wearing:

I'm dressed by Ms. Kate Torralba

Most humbling moment:

When I did a VTR and found out how unattractive I really am. No joke.

Celebrity I resemble most:

Brittany Murphy, according to Marc Abaya.

Best (or worst) lie I ever told:

I hate you.

Sources of inspiration:

God, family, friends, Efren "Bata" Reyes, Charles Bukowski, Joey Ayala, Deftones, Magic, Sandman

Current project:

Imago and Fatal Posporos' Second Album.

Twenty years from now, I'll be:

Fortysomething

KAZ CASTILLO

Age: 27

What I do: Wordsmith, spoken word artist for my fantabulous band verb and a contributing editor for Preview magazine.

What I am wearing: A mix-match of favorite items—vintage scarf, Tommy Hilfiger red trench, jean skirt, green tank, tan boots, my aunt's gold hoops and my mom's vintage gold ring

Most humbling moment:

There's so many, I'll spare you the gory details. Safe to say, I'm a pretty humble person.

Celebrity I resemble most:

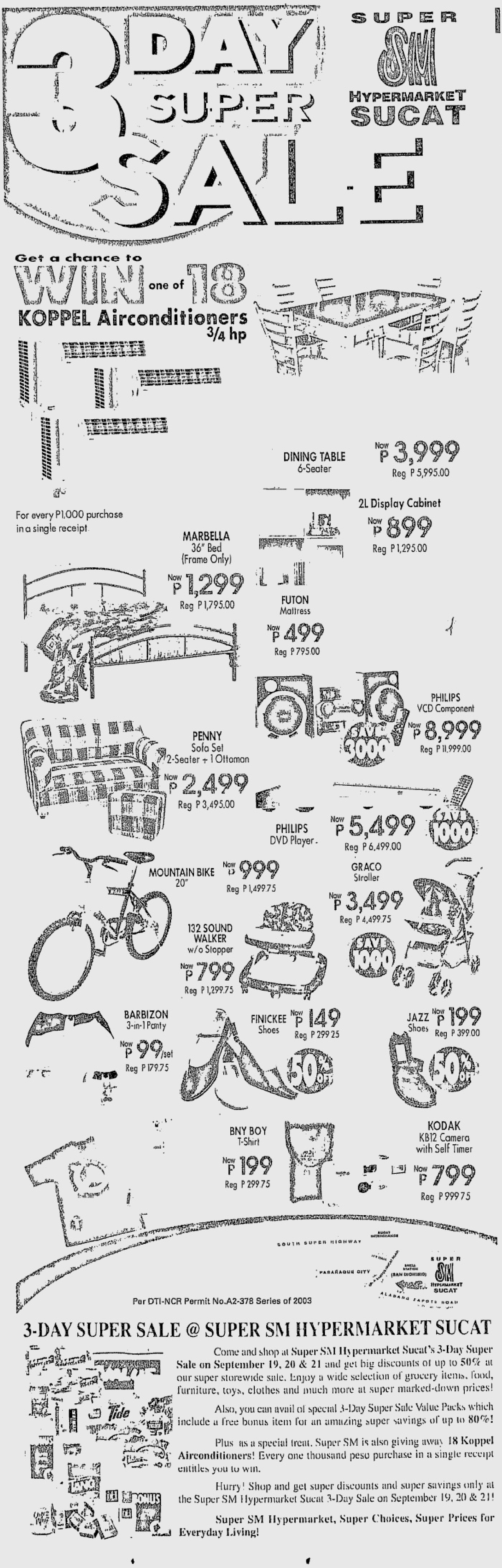
Personality-wise I'm something of a Kermit, though I've been stopped on the streets of LA for being that Asian girl from "Rushmore."

Sources of inspiration:

Anything orange, rain, honest people.

Twenty years from now, I'll be:

In my twenties! Ha! I could still be the best liar ever.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.A2-378 Series of 2003

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Come and shop at **Super SM Hypermarket Sucat's 3-Day Super Sale on September 19, 20 & 21** and get big discounts of up to 50% at our super storewide sale. Enjoy a wide selection of grocery items, food, furniture, toys, clothes and much more at super marked-down prices!

Also, you can avail of special 3-Day Super Sale Value Packs which include a free bonus item for an amazing super savings of up to 80%!

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RICHIE ORTEGA

Age: forever 25

What I do: Retailer (Souk) and clothing designer

What I am wearing: T-shirt from Bangkok, jeans, Sigerson Morrison S&M shoes

Most humbling moment: Being part of this shoot! Hello, I'm overage dude! These kids are great!

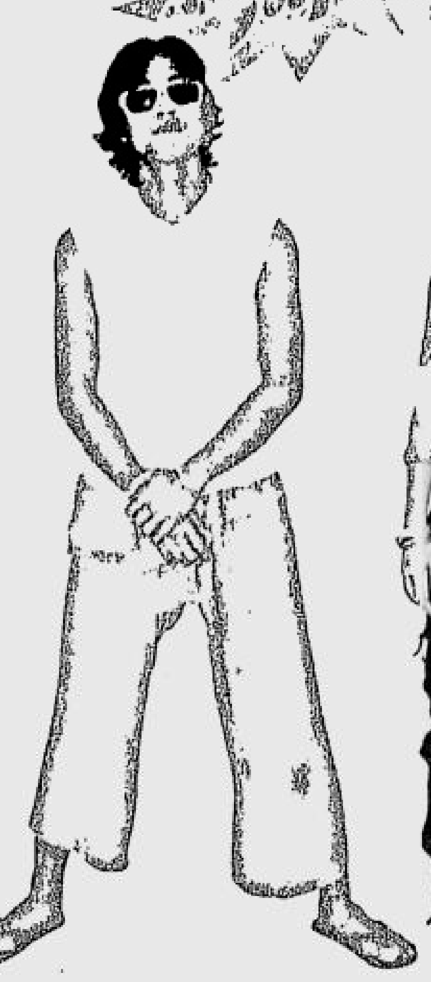
Celebrity I resemble most: Some bold star! I forget her Ara Mina, I think. I personally don't see it at all.

Best (or worst) lie I ever told: That my boyfriend was was the mayor of Boracay while this really old Japanese guy was picking me up in the plane. He already had a harem in tow

Sources of inspiration: Traveling, getting out of Manila

Current project: Opening a new branch of Souk (Bel-air)

Twenty years from now, I'll be: living in a farm growing flowers



JOURDAN THE DREAMER

Age: 25

What I do: I stilt-walk, do spoken word and conduct workshops that make Filipinos more creative, courageous and confident.

What I am I wearing:

A cloak of humility.

Most humbling moment:

When I stripped naked, knelt down (inside my room), raised my head and hand to heaven and shouted, "Ok, I am not God!"

Best (or worst) lie I ever told:

I have no insecurities.

Sources of inspiration:

Holy Spirit of JC, a cup of good caffe latte and. little children

Current project:

Act Now creative workshop, book of *una* (a collection of one word collaborative poetry)

Twenty years from now, I'll be:

A missionary in China

CORINNE CHING

Age: 27

What I do: I'm in a journey to discover different expressions of creative worship.

What I am wearing:

An expression of my inner authentic self

Most humbling moment: When I had to ask financial support from my parents again

Celebrity I resemble most: Barbie Almalbis. People usually mistake me for her.

Best (or worst) lie I ever told: I know what I'm doing.

Sources of inspiration:

Jesus Christ, Milla Jovovich and King David

Current project: Act Now--a creative, fearless workshop.

Twenty years from now, I'll be: Building artist communities that inspire and provoke young creative men and women all over the world to live their dreams now.

NIÑO HERNANDEZ,

Age: 25

What I am wearing:

Boxers, jeans, baby T, hat

What I do: I'm a musician and painter

Most humbling moment: I actually played and paraded in a mall wearing a fancy costume

Celebrity I resemble most: Slash? Or maybe Bob Marley? Well, that's according to them!

Best (or worst) lie I ever told: I was supposed to go to Europe to meet my ex-gf and I told her I couldn't 'coz I was busy with a project. In truth, there was this ultimate frisbee league and I wanted to play.

Sources of inspiration:

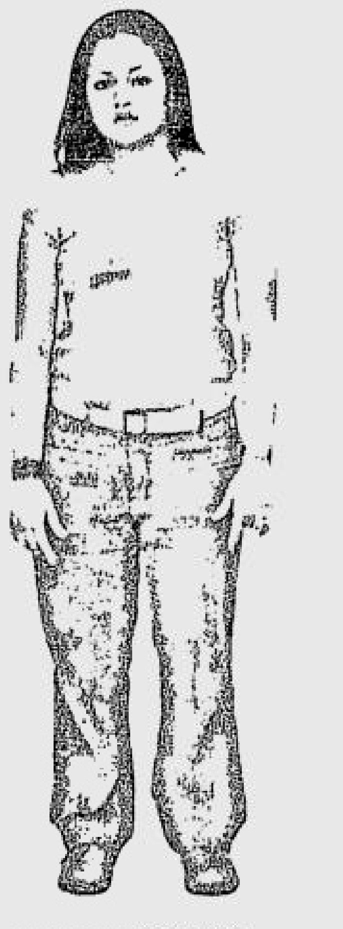
Nature, life and a girl! Nyah!!

Current project:

Paintings and a recording for an album, hot oil treatment for my hair

Twenty years from now, I'll be:

A daddy, I guess! And hopefully an influential painted and musician at the same time and still with curly long hair.



DREW EUROPEO,

Age: 27

What I do: I'm a freelance web designer and illustrator.

Most humbling moment: When people tell me how beautiful my sites are and when people appreciate my illustrations.

Best (or worst) lie I ever told: I told my first employer that I knew web design but the truth was, I knew nothing about it.

Sources of inspiration:

Product labels, packaging, music, fashion and anything that strikes me

Current project:

Website designs for Bella Moda, Marquiz Brokerage (New York), Playhut Entertainment (California), Buy Hip Hop (France), Esferio, Entrepaises (Netherlands) and Museum of Spain, Bite & Night Guide and Single Girls print designs (Philippines) and my websites, Grafikas.com, Dreweuropeo.com and Halfproject.com

Twenty years from now, I will: Have my own design company.

DAVID ALEJANDRO P. ESTEBAN

Age: 27

What I do: Whatever it takes! Percussionist for Sound, drummer for Liquid Jane, Producer of Kidlat!

Most humbling moment: Playing at Monk's Dream's Jazz Fest. It was an honor to be invited and so humbling to be around such great musicians.

Best (or worst) lie I ever told: Saying I was still going to school when I wasn't going anymore.

Sources of inspiration:

Jazz and other forms of music, my girlfriend Dona, my bandmates Sach, Paolo, Erwin, Chino and Chad, nature, computer games and television

Current project: Kidlat! which will be staged in Comfort Room, Sanctum and Rock Radio Cafe in October. Recording Liquid Jane album and playing with Sound in bars all over.

Twenty years from now, I'll be: Married, with a couple of kids in school and hopefully at the beach most of the time

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3] **P 30,000.PLUS+ to P 50,000.**
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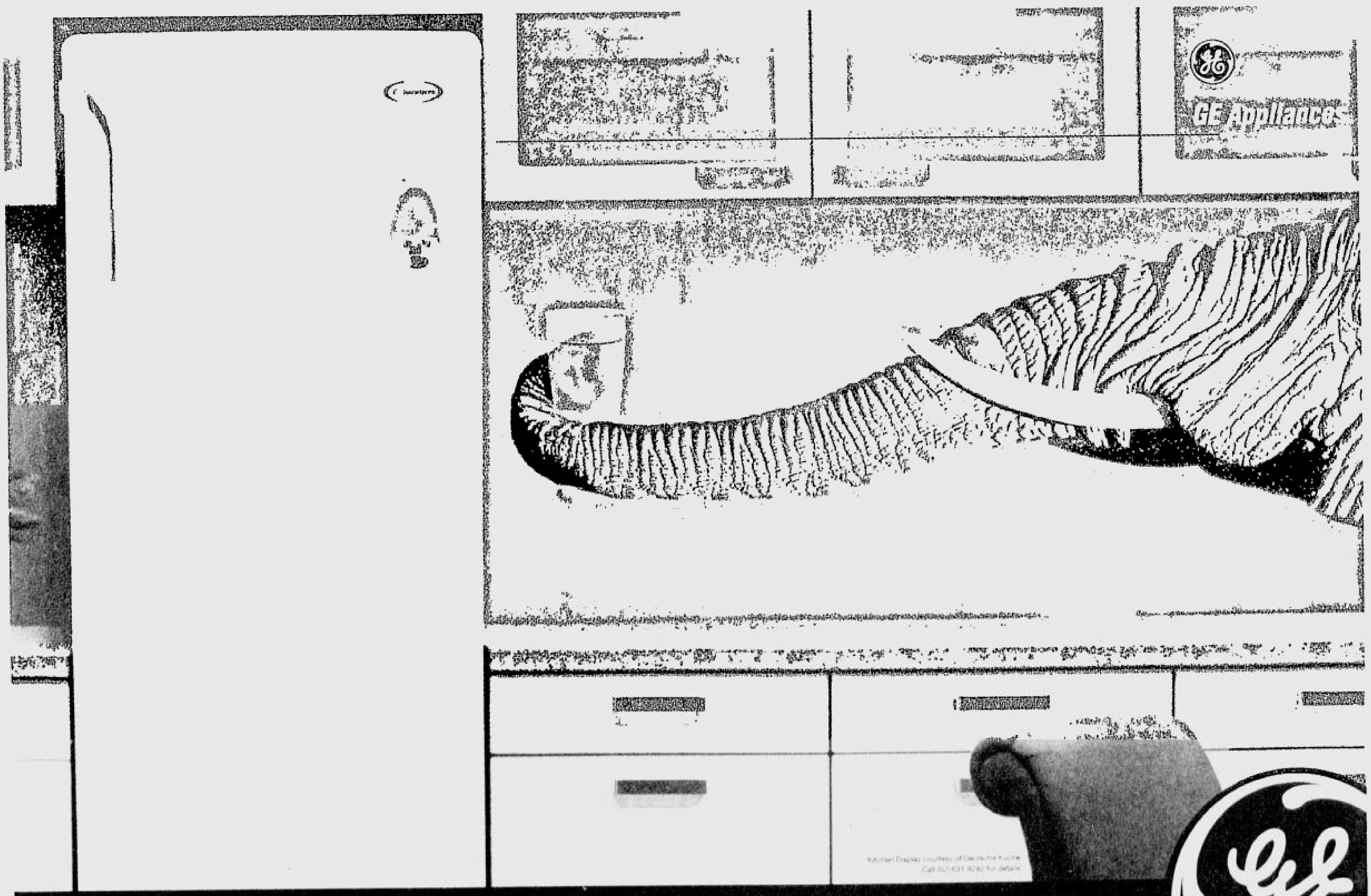
- BLENDER
- OVEN TOASTER

4] **ABOVE P 50,000.**
- RICE COOKER
- WATER DISPENSER
- RICE DISPENSER

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 3822 Series of 2003



Kitchen Display courtesy of Deutsche Kuche
Call [illegible] for details

Perfect for Heavy Drinkers GE, the innovator of the first refrigerator with built-in water dispenser, introduces the new single door model with the largest capacity 3 liter water dispenser in its class. What's more, all parts that come into contact with the water is certified by the Japan Hygienic Association. Now you can drink all you want, safely.

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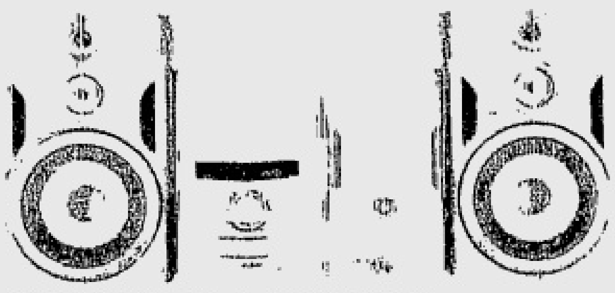
Pioneer



2500W PMPO Vertical VCD/CD Player with MP3 Playback Component System

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6.5 cu. ft. single-door refrigerator

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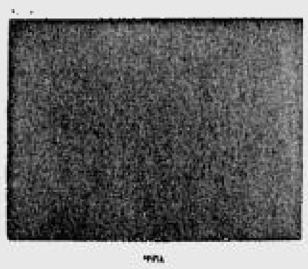
TCL



34" Super Flat Stereo CTV

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29" Stereo Flat Screen CTV with Virtual Surround Sound and DVD Input

TV Rack

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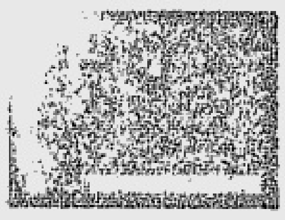
JVC



25" Stereo Flat CTV with Twin Port Blaster and Cinema Surround

TV Rack and Portable VCD Radio Cassette Recorder with MP3

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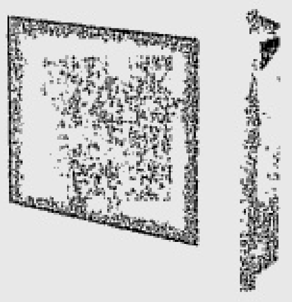

29" Real Flat CTV with Incredible Surround

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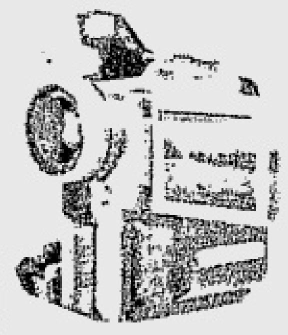
SONY



120x Digital Zoom 1.55 Megapixels CCD with 2.5" color LCD Screen Handycam

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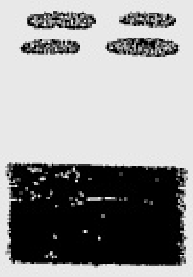
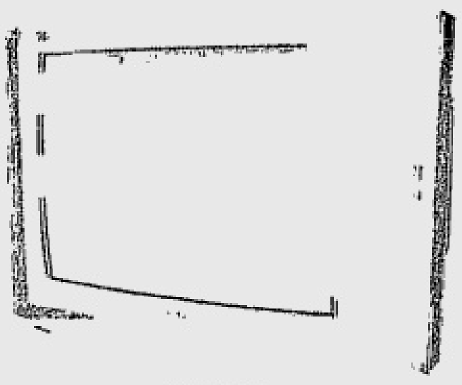


85x60x60 cm Gas Range with rotisserie

P1277.50/mo.
18 months

SANYO



21" CTV

FREE Walkman

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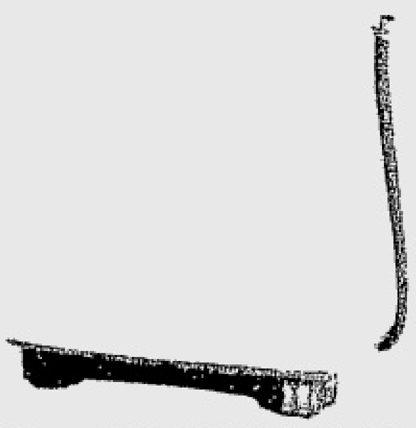
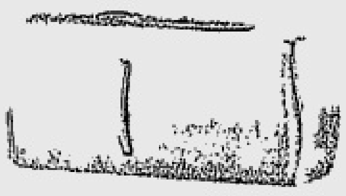
National



4.5 Kg. cap Twin-tub Washing Machine

P933.17/mo.
6 months

SONY



2.0 Mega Pixels ultra compact Cyber Shot Digital Still Camera

Carrying Case

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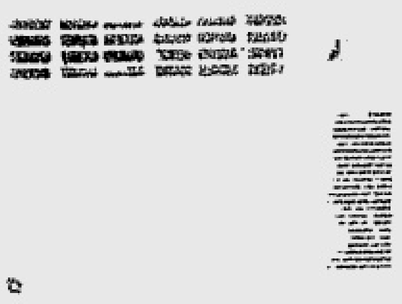
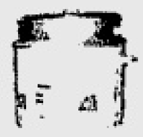
6 months



5300 kj/h room airconditioner

FREE Rice Cooker



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- 16" DESK FAN
- BLENDER
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4] ABOVE P 50,000.
- RICE COOKER
- WATER DISPENSER
- RICE DISPENSER

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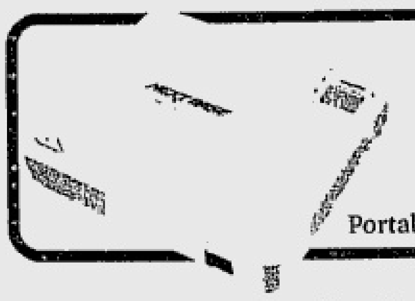

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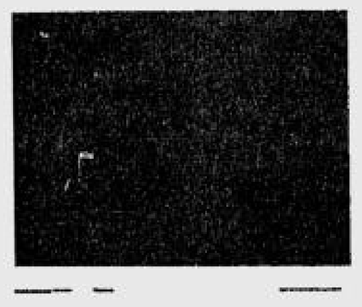
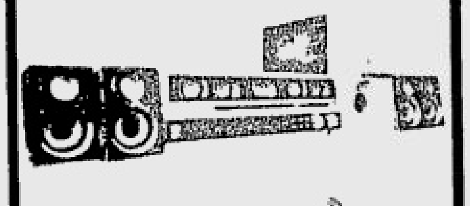


29" Real Flat CTV with Double Window and Picture-In-Picture-Out Function



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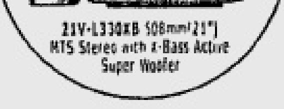
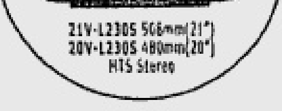
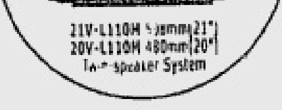
Sharp Prim[illegible]rybody's TV. Everybody's happy.



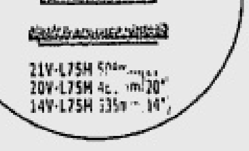
21V-L330XB 508mm(21")
MTS Stereo with X-Bass Active Super Woofer



21V-L230S 508mm(21")
20V-L230S 480mm(20")
MTS Stereo



21V-L110H [illegible]mm(21")
20V-L110H 480mm(20")
Twin-speaker System



21V-L75H [illegible]
20V-L75H [illegible]mm(20")
14V-L75H 335mm(14")

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- **Sta Rosa, Laguna** : Target Mall, Balibago Complex Tels: 699-2349; 699-2295
- **Sta. Lucia East** : Basement Level, Sta. Lucia Cainta, Rizal Tel: 645-8396

Daewoo Pioneers Nano Silver Technology application to home appliance production

DAEWOO Electronics, a major international electronics company, takes production of home appliances to a new level with the adoption of the Nano Silver Technology that is proven to equip appliances with an antibacterial, anti-mold, deodorization, and strong germicidal properties with no toxicity to humans.

In as early as February, Daewoo in Korea completed commercialization of its new nano silver technology applied side-by-side refrigerator called KLASSE and oxygen-generating air conditioner called SUPIA, making it the first company ever to adopt the said technology in the commercial production of its electronic products. This fact was affirmed by Daewoo Electronics CEO Kim Choong-hoon. Daewoo KLASSE refs boast of significantly strengthened food preservation and sanitary function while the SUPIA features ion-emission purifying effects. For other home appliances, the technology is an effective weapon to combat viruses, bacteria and molds.

What makes nano silver technology the next most important innovation in the production of home appliances? It helps prolong the lifespan of the appliances and provide antibiotic properties that effectively eradicate the growth of disease-causing germs and bacteria.

How does it work? Nano silver powder - extremely fine particles, which are one-billionth of a meter in size, is mixed over the surface plastic or rubber materials used in core parts of home appliances. These particles carry the qualities of silver, or argentum, which has been proven to be a powerful, natural and universal prophylactic, as well as, antibiotic. It is a natural disinfectant and broad-spectrum antimicrobial agent that kills bacteria, viruses, molds, fungi and parasites and over 650 disease-causing organisms. The antibiotic mechanism of nano silver kills microbes and prevents them from reproducing, thus totally eliminates disease-causing germs and bacteria.

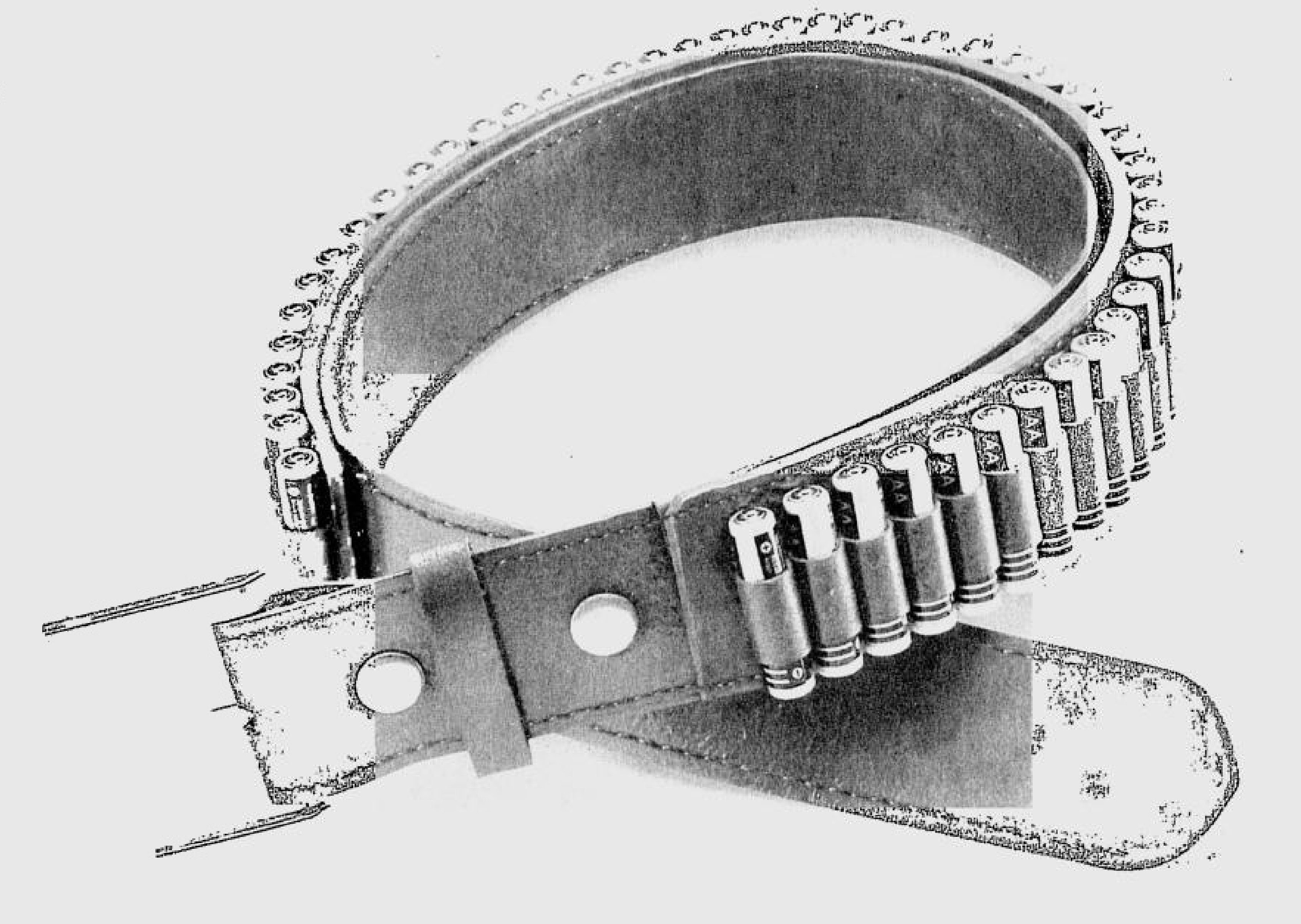
"We mix nano silver particles into components that are assembled in home appliances through injections into the molding process. We chose injection molding instead of coating because our experiments revealed that there was a big difference in disinfectant and other anti-germ effects in the two types of production technologies, even though the latter is much easier and less costly than the former. Also, coating can easily lose the special functions of nano silver technology since it wears off relatively easily," explained Chai Kyung-ah, Daewoo Electronics public relations team manager.

Nano silver technology has also been applied in the production of Daewoo's latest washing machines, which will soon be available in the Philippines to be distributed by Fabriano Spa Inc. Nano-silver technology makes Daewoo washing machines the first washer brand to have antibiotic properties and a deodorizer. It may be recalled that Daewoo was also the first to use the polypropylene technology to manufacture 100% rustproof washing machines. This again affirms that Daewoo is indeed a leader in manufacturing innovative and breakthrough products.

The production of nano silver technology-applied models is the latest effort undertaken by Daewoo in its commitment to continue producing environmentally friendly and health-oriented products. For more information and inquiries, call 643-3456.

SONY

Cyber-shot



Introducing the new Sony CyberShot DSC-P10 digital camera with InfoLithium Battery.
No alkaline-loaded camera can match the DSC-P10's over 180 minutes shooting power. Go all out and take all the pictures you want. Go on, fire away.

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- 3.2 Mega Pixel
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Old price: P18.999
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DSC-P72
- 3.2 Mega Pixel
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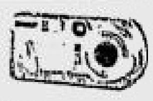
- Smart Zoom
- MPEG Movie VX with Audio
- Ni-MH Rechargeable AA Batteries (Supplied) (Approx. 300 mins or 150 shots)

Old price P24.999
New price: P20,999


DSC-P92
- 5.0 Mega Pixel
- 3x Optical Zoom
- Smart Zoom
- MPEG Movie VX
- Ni-MH Rechargeable AA Batteries (Supplied) (Approx. 270 mins or 135 shots)

Old price P32.999
New price: P27,999

DSC-P8
- 3.2 Mega Pixel
- 3x Optical Zoom
- Smart Zoom
- MPEG Movie VX
- Histogram Indicator
- InfoLithium Battery (Supplied) -- No Memory Effect (Approx. 200 mins or 100 shots)

Old price P31.999
New price: P24,999

DSC-P10
- 5.0 Mega Pixel
- 3x Optical Zoom
- Smart Zoom
- MPEG Movie VX
- Histogram Indicator
- InfoLithium Battery (Supplied) -- No Memory Effect (Approx. 180 mins or 90 shots)

Old price. P36.999
New price: P 31,999

Cyber-shot

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GE reinvent its own innovation

AS early as 1969, GE introduced the first side-by -side refrigerator-freezer with an automatic dispenser for chilled water and ice cubes through the door. It was a milestone in the refrigeration industry because of the extraordinary convenience it afforded its owners. GE's built in water dispenser has become an icon of handiness in appliances and though many have tried to copy this unique GE feature, there is nothing quite like technology continuously improved by its innovator.

In the Philippines, the dispenser refrigerator was also an icon of affluence because it had only been available in the high-end side-by-side refrigerators. This has changed. With the introduction of the new GE single door refrigerator with the built-in water dispenser, more Filipinos will be able to afford the convenience offered by this feature.

GE's 9 cuft. single-door ref with built-in water dispenser offers the biggest capacity dispenser in its class having a total volume of 3.2 liters. This means less frequent refills and also lesser electrical cost because it eliminates the need to open the ref's door that may let warm air in and signal the compressor to work more. Moreover, Japan's Hygienic Association has approved all the parts in contact with the water so you are sure that your family gets the safest drinking water.

All of GE's single door refs have the one-touch defrost system, a cooling system that eliminates the hassles associated with defrosting such as melting the ice with an electric fan, loosening it with an ice pick, emptying the ref, throwing out the water, etc. With one touch of a button, defrosting takes place and automatically resumes when done. The melted ice is drained to the back of the ref where it evaporates due to the inherent heat of the compressor. No need to throw it out yourself. Best of all, the one-touch defrost system retains approximately 50% of its cold temperature during defrosting making it possible to save on electricity later on when normal operation resumes.. Indeed, GE brings good things to the lives of Asians and Filipinos.

Catch a glimpse of GE's innovative products at its main showroom on the 5th level of Megamall Building B with Tel. 633-9953. GE Appliances are available at all leading appliance stores nationwide. Official Distributor is CYA Industries with main plant and service center at 109 Mercedes Ave., Brgy. San Miguel, Pasig City with Regional Offices in Davao (082) 222-1181; Cebu (032) 344-6925 and Cagayan de Oro (088) 856-4727.